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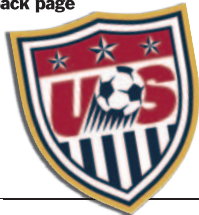
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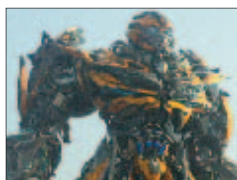
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AP

A militant stands guard at a checkpoint captured from the Iraqi Army outside Beiji refinery, 155 miles north of Baghdad. The al-Qaida breakout group that has seized much of northern Syria and huge tracks of neighboring Iraq formally declared the creation of an Islamic state on Sunday in the territory under its control.

Sunni militants declare Islamic state in Iraq and Syria

BY RYAN LUCAS AND ZEINA KARAM
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A militant group's declaration of an Islamic state in territory it controls in Syria and Iraq touched off celebrations among its followers but drew condemnation and even ridicule from rivals and officials in Baghdad and Damascus.

The declaration of a caliphate was a bold move by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, not just announcing its own state governed by Shariah law but also claiming legitimacy as a successor to the first Islamic rule

created by the Prophet Muhammad in the Arabian Peninsula 14 centuries ago.

In an announcement Sunday, the group proclaimed its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi to be the caliph and demanded all Muslims around the world pledge allegiance to him. The move risks straining alliances with other Iraqi Sunnis who have helped the militants seize control of large parts of the country's north and west.

Those Sunnis, including former officers in the military of ousted dictator Saddam Hussein, have backed the militants in hopes of bringing down the Shiite-led government but not necessarily its ambitions of carving out a transnational caliphate.

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INSIDE

ISIL attacks are being strengthened by abandoned US-made weapons

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Obama warns of risks posed by militants with Western passports

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Obama taps former CEO to lead Veterans Affairs

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's nominee to take over the embattled Department of Veterans Affairs commanded Army troops, ran one of the world's largest consumer-focused corporations, and now faces the daunting task of fixing an arm of the U.S. government that critics say is among the most corrupt in American history.

The president was expected to announce the nomination of Bob McDonald, 61, former president and CEO of Procter & Gamble,

as secretary of Veterans Affairs late Monday.

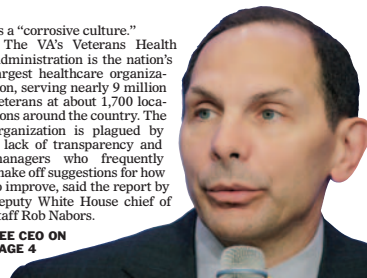
The choice of corporate executive McDonald, 61, stands in sharp contrast to Obama's first VA secretary, retired Army Gen. Eric Shinewski, who resigned in May amid the turmoil of continual revelations about fraudulent scheduling practices and lengthy wait times for veterans seeking medical care at VA facilities.

The latest damning report, ordered by Obama and released Friday, concludes the VA is suffering from "significant and chronic system failures" as well

as a "corrosive culture."

The VA's Veterans Health Administration is the nation's largest healthcare organization, serving nearly 9 million veterans at about 1,700 locations around the country. The organization is plagued by a lack of transparency and managers who frequently shake off suggestions for how to improve, said the report by deputy White House chief of staff Rob Nabors.

SEE CEO ON
PAGE 4



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There's less partying. There's less sex. Everyone's interested in politics and no one is having sex."

— Larry Pettit, who has been attending the gay pride parade in San Francisco every year for four decades, explaining why he thinks the event has lost some of its edge as it gains mainstream acceptance

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TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

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2. Tattoo shop then hospital for 5 US troops on Okinawa
3. Death of Sgt. Thomas Z. Spitzer sparks outpouring on social media
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COMING SOON



Video games

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Combat vets' chronic pain studied

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

Nearly half of a group of infantry soldiers who saw combat in Afghanistan have reported experiencing chronic pain, and 15 percent said they recently used opioid pain relievers, according to a study released Monday.

Of 2,597 active-duty Army troops surveyed three months after their deployment, 44 percent said they experienced recurring or unceasing pain after returning from Afghanistan, according to the study, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association Internal Medicine.

The number of soldiers affected by chronic pain was a surprise to researchers, said Robin L. Tobin, the lead author of the study, one of the first to quantify the impact of recent wars on the prevalence of pain and narcotic use among soldiers.

"War is really hard on the body," said Tobin, who is affiliated with the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. "I think that's the take-home message."

She said researchers didn't expect that nearly half of young, otherwise healthy men who were not seeking medical treatment would suffer from chronic pain.

The percentage was far higher than an estimated 26 percent of chronic pain sufferers in a Kansas study of civilians ages 18 to 65. In that study, which looked at a group comparable to the soldiers — men aged 18 to 34 — only

15 percent reported chronic pain, Tobin said.

Chronic pain is defined as pain that continues beyond the normal time expected for healing or that accompanying chronic conditions like arthritis. It is associated with the onset of changes in the central nervous system that may adversely affect well-being, cognition, level of function and quality of life, according to the Defense Department's Pain Management Task Force.

Opioids, whose pharmacological effects resemble morphine or other opiates, are strong medicines that can relieve pain caused by serious injuries.

Of the chronic pain sufferers, 48.3 percent reported pain duration of a year or longer. More than half — 55.6 percent reported nearly daily or a constant frequency of pain. About half — 51.2 percent — reported moderate to severe pain.

The survey did not ask for the location of the pain, Tobin said.

The troops' reported use of opioid pain relievers — 15.1 percent of all surveyed troops and 23 percent of those with chronic pain — was also far higher than the estimated civilian use of 4 percent. But that finding was less of a surprise, she Tobin said.

"It's consistent Army-wide," she said. About a quarter of soldiers use opioids within a given year, she said.

The findings "suggest a large unmet need for assessment, management and treatment of chronic pain and related opioid use and

misuse in military personnel after combat deployments," the study authors note.

In commentary accompanying the study, Lt. Col. Dr. Wayne B. Jonas and Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker, both retired, said the study raised concerns.

"The nation's defense rests on the comprehensive fitness of its servicemembers — mind, body and spirit. Chronic pain and use of opioids carry the risk of functional impairment of America's fighting force," they wrote.

According to a 2010 report by DOD's Pain Management Task Force, "Pain is a disease state of the nervous system and deserves the same management attention given to any other disease states," according to a 2010 task force report.

But pain management is a special challenge in military settings, the report said.

"The transient nature of the military population, including both patients and providers, creates extraordinary challenges to providing continuity of care, something very important to pain management."

Data for the JAMA study were collected in 2011 from an infantry brigade redeployed from Afghanistan, and most of the 2,597 survey participants were men, 18 to 24 years old, high school-educated, married and of junior enlisted rank. Nearly half — 45.4 percent — reported combat injuries.

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Bodies of missing Israeli teens found

By JOSEF FEDERMAN
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military found the bodies of three missing teenagers on Monday, just over two weeks after they were abducted in the West Bank, allegedly by Hamas militants. The grisly discovery culminated a feverish search that led to Israel's largest ground operation in the Palestinian territory in nearly a decade and raised fears of renewed fighting with Hamas.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was huddling with his Security Cabinet late Monday to discuss a response.

Eyal Yifrah, 19, Gilad Shaar, 16, and Natfali Fraenkel, a 16-year-old with dual Israeli-American citizenship, disappeared while hitchhiking home near the West Bank city of Hebron late at night on June 12 and were never heard from again. Despite the dangers, hitchhiking is common among Israelis traveling in and out of Jew-

ish settlements in the West Bank.

The Israeli military and the Shin Bet security agency announced late Monday that the bodies had been found. "The bodies are currently going through forensic identification. The families of the abducted teens have been notified," the army said. The Shin Bet said the bodies had been buried in a field near the village of Halhul, just north of Hebron.

Binyamin Proper, who was among the civilian volunteers that found the bodies, told Channel 2 TV that a member of the search party "saw something suspicious on the ground, plants that looked out of place, moved them and moved some rocks and then found the bodies. We realized it was them and we called the army."

Israel accused Hamas of being behind the abductions and launched a frantic manhunt throughout the West Bank, arresting nearly 400 Hamas operatives in the process. Last week, Israel identified two well-known

Hamas operatives as the chief suspects. The two men remained on the run late Monday.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas condemned the kidnappings, and his forces coordinated closely with Israel during the search for the teens. But Netanyahu has called on Abbas to dissolve a unity government recently formed with the backing of Hamas, saying it is impossible to be committed to peace while simultaneously sitting together with a group that kidnaps Israelis. Abbas has so far refused the calls, saying his new government is committed to his political program. Hamas is not part of his government, but has lent its backing from the outside.

The search for the teens captured the nation's attention. The Israeli media delivered round-the-clock updates on the search, and the mothers of the three teens became high-profile figures as they campaigned for their sons' return.



SEBASTIAN SCHNEIDER/AP

Israeli religious students hug prior to a prayer at the synagogue where two missing Israeli teens studied in the Jewish settlement of Kfar Etzion on June 15. Officials said Monday that the Israeli military has discovered the bodies of three teens.

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MILITARY

Report: Military hospital care inferior

Stars and Stripes

Despite official statements to the contrary, care in the military health care system is inferior to that in typical civilian hospitals, according to internal documents obtained by The New York Times.

The Times reported in its Sunday editions that an analysis of the military hospital system — which cares for some 1.6 million active-duty servicemembers and their families and is entirely separate from the scandal-plagued veterans system — shows that reviews of practices are sporadic and avoidable errors are chronic.

Since 2001, the Defense Department has required military hospitals to conduct safety investigations when patients unexpectedly die or suffer severe injury, the Times reported. Records indicate they went on to be done. From 2011 to 2013, 239 unexpected deaths were reported, but only 100 inquiries were forwarded to the Pentagon's patient-safety center, where analysts recommend how to improve care. Cases involving permanent harm often remained unexamined as well.

‘The patient-safety system is broken. It has no teeth. Reports are submitted, but patient-safety offices have no authority.’

Dr. Mary Lopez
former staff officer for health policy and services

At the same time, the military system has consistently had higher-than-expected rates of harm and complications in two central parts of its business — maternity care and surgery.

The Times wrote that more than 50,000 babies are born at military hospitals each year, and they are twice as likely to be injured during delivery as newborns nationwide, statistics show. Also, their mothers were more likely to hemorrhage after childbirth than mothers at civilian hospitals, according to a 2012 analysis conducted for the Pentagon.

In surgery, half of the system's 16 largest hospitals had higher-than-expected rates of complications over a recent 12-month period, the American College of

Surgeons found last year. Four of the busiest hospitals have performed poorly on that metric year after year.

In late May, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel ordered a review of all military hospitals, saying he wanted to determine if they had the same problems that have shaken the veterans system.

Hagel said the review would study not just access to treatment, the focus of investigations at the veterans hospitals, but also quality of care and patient safety.

The Times' examination, based on Pentagon studies, court records, analyses of data and interviews with current and former health officials and workers, indicates that the military lags behind many civilian hospital systems in

protecting patients from harm. The reasons, military doctors and nurses said, are rooted in a compartmentalized system of leadership, a culture of interservice secrecy and an overall failure to make patient safety a top priority.

Experience in civilian hospitals and in the veterans system has shown that stricter procedures and more sophisticated surveillance can limit errors, sometimes markedly, according to the Times.

Among some in the military network, concerns about patient safety are longstanding, if rarely acknowledged in public. But calls for change have consistently foundered in the convoluted bureaucracy.

"The patient-safety system is broken," Dr. Mary Lopez, a former staff officer for health policy and services under the Army surgeon general, told the Times. "It has no teeth. Reports are submitted, but patient-safety offices have no authority."

"People rarely talk to each other. It's I have my territory, and nobody is going to encroach on my territory."

Say what?

A sample of reader comments from starsandstripes.com



Do all veterans deserve 'hero' tag?

Many veterans deserve high praise for their heroism, but others do not, according to Army Capt. Benjamin Summers in an opinion piece. For example, servicemen and women who made the ultimate sacrifice — these are heroes, he said. Applying the label "hero" to those who haven't earned it diminishes the service and sacrifice of those who did.

Readers respond:

My son is a hero. He's a Marine. He signed the papers to sacrifice his life for our country, if needed. He fought in Afghanistan ... Damn anyone who would say my son is not a hero. ALL military, current and past, are heroes.

— Lynn Tamara

Some people think the good conduct medal identifies a hero and others think a silver star does. That is up to you.

— TeXan1111

People should not get hung up because someone calls someone a hero.

— parkers61

I'd call anybody that served or is serving a Hero any day of the week over some spoiled overpaid professional athlete.

— RememberPearlHarbor

Who are the "real" heroes? Who makes that determination? Who gets to vote?

— ddoughtyjd

I've seen Soldiers call "Hero" for no other reason than wearing the uniform. Like the CPT stated: "Not every servicemember is a hero."

— Rob

I call all of my brothers and sisters in the "1 percent club" heroes. I am sorry that you don't.

— Jeffrey R. Snyder

Being able to lay your life on the line for your country, knowing this with a wife and kids at home, makes you a hero.

— Dave Lopez

When everybody is a hero, then nobody is a hero.

— DoctorAmmo

Join the fray at: starsandstripes.com/go/herocomment

CEO: Selection of McDonald may indicate customer satisfaction is priority

FROM FRONT PAGE

House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jeff Miller, R-Fla., summed up McDonald's mission — if he gets the job — in near-apocalyptic tones.

"If confirmed by the Senate, Robert McDonald will inherit a Department of Veterans Affairs under a specter of corruption that may very well surpass anything in the history of American government," Miller said.

On his final day as secretary, Shinske expressed surprise at abusive actions by VA management, saying his decades in the military hadn't prepared him for such behavior. By contrast, McDonald spent his career managing civilian workers for a massive company with a wide, globally dispersed array of consumer brands, leading some observers to suggest the president had decided to make customer satisfaction the priority at VA.

McDonald spent 33 years at Procter & Gamble, during which he managed the Tide brand and later was named president of global fabric care before being promoted to president and CEO in 2009. P&G's stock price grew by 60 percent under his leadership, according to his official biography on the company's website. He retired in May 2013, reportedly after



MATT YORK/AP

The Department of Veterans Affairs in Phoenix is among the facilities being investigated by the VA inspector general's office.

months of grumbling by investors dissatisfied over earnings.

Although McDonald built a career outside the military, he reportedly graduated near the top of his class at West Point in 1975, and served mostly in the 82nd Airborne Division, rising to the rank of captain.

The choice of McDonald, who has a history of supporting Re-

publican candidates, is expected to generate little political controversy, with House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, calling McDonald "a good man, a veteran and a strong leader with decades of experience in the private sector. With those traits, he's the kind of person who is capable of implementing the kind of dramatic, systemic change that is badly needed and long overdue at the VA."

Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., said he was eager to hear McDonald's views on how to fix the VA.

"The VA needs significantly improved transparency and accountability, and it needs an increased number of doctors, nurses and other medical staff so that all

eligible veterans get high-quality health care in a timely manner," Sanders said in a statement.

McDonald is a surprising pick, said Paul Rieckhoff, CEO and founder of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.

"McDonald is not a name that was on anyone's radar over the last few weeks," Rieckhoff said in a press release. "His branding background may prove helpful, because there are few organizations in America with a worse reputation with its customers than the VA right now. He's been away from the military for quite a while and will have to move quickly to show he is committed to and understands the post-9/11 generation of veterans."

‘If confirmed by the Senate, Robert McDonald will inherit a Department of Veterans Affairs under a specter of corruption that may well surpass anything in the history of American government.’

Rep. Jeff Miller

House Veterans' Affairs Committee chairman

MILITARY

S. Korea imposes new tax rules on US citizens

By ASHLEY ROWLAND

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — American citizens now will be required to report their nationality when opening accounts at South Korean financial institutions under a federal law intended to make sure U.S. residents living overseas don't skip out on paying their taxes.

The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act, also known as the FATCA, was passed by Congress in 2010 in an effort to prevent tax evasion. Enforcement mechanisms for the law will go into effect in South Korea on Tuesday.

"Each year, some wealthy individuals evade millions of dollars in taxes through the use of offshore financial accounts that are not reported to the IRS or other tax au-

thorities," the U.S. Treasury Department said in a press release earlier this year. "This international tax evasion is illegal, contributes to the federal debt, and creates inequity within the tax system."

Most U.S. servicemembers and Defense Department workers use on-base banks and credit unions, which are run by U.S. financial institutions.

However, the FATCA regulations would affect workers — particularly those who are in the country long-term — who open a Korean bank account or have spouses who open a Korean bank account, a step necessary for most expats who get jobs with Korean companies.

The U.S. and South Korea reached an agreement in March to automatically exchange tax information, requiring South Korean financial institutions — including

banks, securities firms and investment entities like private equity funds — to report the data, according to South Korea's Financial Services Commission. South Korean financial institutions will identify U.S.-related financial accounts through an electronic review of their records and report the account holder's name, account number, balance and interest payments to South Korea's National Tax Service.

The NTS will exchange tax information with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service every September beginning in 2015. Financial institutions that don't comply must pay a 30 percent withholding tax on some payments from American sources.

Large accounts with balances greater than \$50,000 that were opened before Tuesday page reporting deadlines in 2015 and 2016, according to the FSC.

The FATCA, which also applies to green card holders, has been criticized as being an invasion of privacy that hurts law-abiding expats and not those who use overseas accounts to avoid paying taxes.

According to media reports, some foreign financial institutions have denied mortgages and other services to U.S. citizens because of the extra paperwork involved, and an increasing number of Americans have renounced their U.S. citizenship because of the hassles stemming from the FATCA.

The U.S. has signed or is planning FATCA enforcement agreements with dozens of countries, including Germany, Japan and Italy.

Stars and Stripes' Yoo Kyung Chang contributed to this story.
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Marine twice accused of desertion in US custody

By ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Marine corporal who was declared a deserter nearly 10 years ago after disappearing in Iraq under mysterious circumstances is back in military custody and will face charges to be determined by a two-star general.

Cpl. Wassef Ali Hassoun, 34, turned himself in and was flown Sunday from an undisclosed location in the Middle East to Norfolk, Va. He was to be moved Monday to his original home base of Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, according to a spokesman at Marine Corps headquarters at the Pentagon, Capt. Eric Flanagan.

Maj. Gen. Raymond Fox, commander of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force at Lejeune, will decide within days how to adjudicate the case, which could mean a court-martial, Flanagan said.

A written statement Sunday by Marine Corps headquarters said the Naval Criminal Investigative Service "worked with" Hassoun to turn himself in, return to the United States and face charges under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. It provided no details about where Hassoun was when he made those arrangements.

Hassoun disappeared from his unit in Iraq's western desert in June 2004. The following month he turned up unharmed in Beirut, Lebanon, and blamed his disap-

pearance on Islamic extremist kidnappers. He was returned to Lejeune and was about to face the military equivalent of a grand jury hearing when he disappeared again.

Flanagan said the Hassoun case is unrelated to the matter of Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who disappeared from his post in eastern Afghanistan in June 2009 under unexplained circumstances. Members of Bergdahl's unit have said he walked away on his own and should face desertion charges.

The Bergdahl case triggered a flood of controversy in part because of questions about the deal the U.S. struck with the Taliban to gain his release May 31. He was released after five years in captivity in exchange for freeing five senior Taliban commanders from the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Bergdahl has not commented publicly on the circumstances of his disappearance and the Army has made no charges against him.

It is unclear where Hassoun, 34, has spent the past nine years after disappearing during a visit with relatives in West Jordan, Utah, in December 2004. Nor is it known why he chose to turn himself in now. He was born in Lebanon and is a naturalized American citizen.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps in January 2002 and was trained as a motor vehicle operator. At the time of his disappearance from a Marine camp in Fallujah in western Iraq in June 2004, he was serv-



Nearly a decade after being declared a deserter, Cpl. Wassef Ali Hassoun, center, shown in July 2004, has turned himself in to U.S. authorities.

ing as an Arabic translator.

Seven days after his June 2004 disappearance, a photo of a blindfolded Hassoun with a sword poised above his head turned up on Al-Jazeera television. A group called the National Islamic Resistance/1920 Revolution Brigade claimed to be holding him captive.

On July 8, 2004, Hassoun contacted American officials in Beirut, Lebanon, claiming to have been kidnapped. He was returned to the U.S. and eventually to Camp Lejeune. After a Navy investigation,

the military charged Hassoun with desertion, loss of government property, theft of a military firearm for allegedly leaving the Fallujah camp with a 9 mm service pistol, and theft of a Humvee.

Shortly after his return to the U.S., Hassoun said in a public statement that he had been captured by insurgents in Iraq and was still a loyal Marine. "I did not desert my post," he told reporters. "I was captured and held against my will by anti-coalition forces for 19 days. This was a very difficult and challenging time for me."

Marine jailed in Mexico gets new court hearing on weapons charges

By TONY PERRY

Los Angeles Times

SAN DIEGO — Andrew Tahmooressi, the Marine reservist jailed in Mexico since April 1 on weapons charges, has a court hearing set for next week but it could take months to win his freedom, his mother said.

Jill Tahmooressi said Sunday her son's new Mexican attorney has advised him that the legal process could take six months.

Arrested at the Mexican side of the border crossing at San Ysidro, Calif., the 25-year-old Marine sergeant who served in Afghani-

stan is being held in a Mexican prison in Tecate. His hearing is set for July 9. A May 28 hearing was canceled after Tahmooressi fired his first attorney.

The Tecate prison is safer than the Mexican prison at La Mesa where he was initially held after Mexican police said he crossed into Mexico with three weapons and several hundred rounds of ammunition. He is being kept in a single cell.

Several dozen U.S. politicians have sought to persuade the Obama administration to pressure Mexican officials to release Tahmooressi.

But Tahmooressi's new at-

torney, Fernandez Benitez, has warned him and his mother that political pressure will not win his freedom.

"This is a federal court and as in any democratic nation you will not find an executive calling up a judge and ordering the release of a suspect," Benitez told Fox News. "It makes no difference if it is a mayor, governor or the president, there's not a phone call in the world that will change this."

At the July 9 hearing in Tijuana, Tahmooressi is prepared to tell the judge that he crossed into Mexico by mistake when he missed the turnoff on Interstate

5 to remain in the United States. Possession of weapons is illegal in Mexico and several signs along the freeway warn travelers.

Jill Tahmooressi has arranged for a letter to be presented to Anthony Wayne, the U.S. ambassador to Mexico, on the Fourth of July.

Wayne, a career diplomat, was deputy ambassador to Afghanistan while Tahmooressi served there as part of an infantry battalion assigned to Helmand province, a Taliban stronghold. His actions brought him a meritorious promotion to sergeant.

Under Mexican law, judges

often hold multiple hearings to hear all sides of a criminal case. A judge has wide discretion to continue or drop a case.

Tahmooressi has said he moved to San Diego to receive treatment at the Veterans Affairs hospital in La Jolla for post-traumatic stress disorder. He had his weapons in his pickup truck along with his other belongings, he said.

His version of events, however, has become muddled because he initially claimed he had never been to Mexico but reporters later discovered he had registered earlier that day in a \$24-a-night hotel in downtown Tijuana.

IRAQ

Militants fight with abandoned US-made arms

By NABIH BULOS,
PATRICK J. McDONNELL
AND RAJA ABDULRAHIM

Los Angeles Times

IRBIL, Iraq — Six months ago, Sunni Arab militants faced a daunting firepower imbalance in their uprising against the U.S.-equipped Iraqi army west of Baghdad.

But once their campaign for the city of Fallujah was launched in January, their lethal capabilities were bolstered from the stockpiles of the Iraqi armed forces. Many soldiers fled, throwing down their weapons, which were picked up by the insurgents. Police stations and security posts overrun by Sunni militants yielded more martial booty to be turned against the forces of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's Shiite Muslim-led government.

"Praise Allah, we soon had enough weapons to fight for one or two years," said Ahmad Dabaash, spokesman for the Islamic Army, a Sunni rebel faction, who spoke in a hotel lobby here in Iraq's northern Kurdistan region. "And now? Don't even ask!"

By "now," he was referring to the current ground assault by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant that in the past two weeks has seized large parts of northern and central Iraq, including Mosul, Iraq's second-most populous city. Fighting alongside ISIL formations are other Iraqi Sunni factions such as the Islamic Army, which rose against the U.S. occupation a decade ago.

As the Iraqi government mobilizes to halt the insurgents' advance toward Baghdad, the capital, there is no full accounting of the stocks of plundered arms, ordnance and gear. But experts agree that the haul is huge — with implications for the merging wars in both Iraq and neighboring Syria.

Rival Syrian rebel factions al-

ready report seeing U.S.-built, ISIL-commandeered Humvees almost as far east as the vicinity of Aleppo, 250 miles from Iraq. The influx of arms and fighters from Iraq could shift the balance of power among fractious rebel groups fighting for supremacy in Syria.

The ISIL, which also reportedly snatched the equivalent of close to \$500 million in cash from a Mosul bank, has been catapulted to the position of the world's wealthiest and best-equipped militant group, analysts say. Its riches easily eclipse those of al-Qaida under Osama bin Laden, despite his personal fortune. The group, which has attracted thousands of fighters from the Arab world, Europe and elsewhere, also controls a broad swath of contiguous territory in the heart of the Middle East.

"[The ISIL] are well-trained, very capable, and have advanced weapons systems that they know how to use," said Michael Stepien, researcher at the Royal United Services Institute for Defense and Security Studies.

In the current ISIL-led thrust, the scenario played out earlier by Sunni insurgents in western Iraq has been replicated on a monumental scale.

Government forces retreated en masse from the onslaught, leaving behind a military hardware bonanza, including the U.S.-made armored Humvees as well as trucks, rockets, artillery pieces, rifles, ammunition and even a helicopter. Some of the seized materiel was old or otherwise nonfunctioning; but a lot was promptly put to use on the battlefield.

Pictures of grinning Islamist warriors cruising in U.S. Humvees bedecked with white-on-black militant flags flooded the Internet and became the signature image of the ISIL campaign.

From those who embrace this ideology," Obama said on ABC's "This Week."

"We have to improve our surveillance, reconnaissance, intelligence here. Special forces are going to have a role. And there are going to be times where we take strikes against organizations that could do us harm," Obama said.

Militant fighters aligned with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant have overrun the military airports of Iraq, threatened the capital of Baghdad in recent



AP

Iraqi and Russian aircraft technicians unload warplanes at al-Muthanna air base in Baghdad on Saturday. The Iraqi government received a boost in its battle with militants with the arrival of five Su-25 warplanes purchased secondhand from Russia.

Russian Su-25 jets, advisers arrive in Iraq to aid in fight against ISIL

By MITCHELL PROTHERO
McClatchy Washington Bureau

IRBIL, Iraq — The battle for Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit stretched into a third day Sunday with both the Iraqi government and Islamist insurgents reporting heavy loss, as five jet fighters Iraq purchased from Russia arrived.

The head of Iraq's nascent air force said the jets would soon enter the fight to push back the forces of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant that have seized much of central and northern Iraq in the past three weeks.

"In the coming three or four days the aircraft will be in service to support our forces in the fight" against the ISIL and other Sunni rebels, Gen. Anwar Hama Ameen, the commander of the Iraqi air force, said at a Baghdad briefing.

The fight in Tikrit is the first major effort by the Iraqi government to reclaim territory lost to the ISIL in the surprise takeover of much of central and northern Iraq. Thousands of Iraqi army fighters, backed by Shiite mili-

tias, are now trying to battle up Iraq's main central highway to enter Tikrit, a city of 200,000 that fell to the ISIL and its Sunni Muslim tribal allies on June 11.

Both sides claimed no momentum, and there was little independent information on which to judge the likely outcome.

The Iraqi government insisted that the operation in Tikrit was going according to plan, while militants and tribal leaders claimed that the government's main advance from the nearby town of Samarra had bogged down as it encountered roadside bombs the insurgents have planted over the last two weeks.

The few residents who have remained in Tikrit — as much as 70 percent of the town's population reportedly has fled the government advance — told local television that there was little sign of government forces in the city center but described a number of helicopter attacks that used rudimentary barrel bombs to flatten large parts of the city center ahead of the government advance.

With both sides claiming mo-

mentum in the fight, the arrival from Russia of five Su-25 jets late Saturday night with two more expected to arrive on Sunday could provide an important boost to both Iraqi army morale and firepower. Twelve Russian technical advisers also arrived with the shipment.

Iraqi news media called the arrival of the Russian equipment — U.S. F-16s are not expected until September — a warning to the Obama administration over its reluctance to grant an Iraqi government request to begin airstrikes against the insurgents. Iraq has virtually no air force and until the arrival of the Russian planes, no jet fighter aircraft in the country.

The quick Russian delivery also underscores the complexity of the Iraqi developments, where the United States is allied with Russia and Iran fighting to preserve Iraq's central government even as the three countries are on the opposite side of the civil war in Syria, where the ISIL is also fighting to topple the government of President Bashar Assad.

Obama: Militants with Western passports pose risks to US

By LISA MASCARO

Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama acknowledged Sunday that militants fighting in Syria and Iraq pose a direct threat to the United States because many of them have Western passports that enable them to easily enter the country without visas.

"I think we have been under serious threat my entire presidency, and we have been under serious threat predating 9/11

weeks and prompting the White House to dispatch 300 military advisers to help stabilize the region.

"They're gaining strength in some places," Obama said. "We've seen Europeans who are sympathetic to their cause traveling into Syria and now may travel into Iraq, getting battle-hardened. Then they come back. They've got European passports. They don't need a visa to get into the United States."

Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., said that as many as 100 Americans

and "thousands" of European passport holders have joined the fight in Syria. In response, the U.S. is working to increase security at overseas airports.

"Any of these people can come back to the United States and they can carry out the type of attack that they're being trained in in Syria," King said on the same show. "All we have to do is risk one or two of them and we could have a very, very lethal attack here in the U.S."

Whether Congress will need to give its approval to authorize the

White House's military actions in Iraq remains open for debate. Many lawmakers are reluctant to vote on the issue ahead of the mid-term elections when they will be seeking support from Americans weary after a decade of war.

"I believe the president has to come back to Congress," Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., said on CBS' "Face the Nation." "He should come back to Congress. And I can assure you there's no appetite for us to get boots on the ground and go back into that country in any way, shape or form."

IRAQ

Declare: Militants' rivals denounce boasts

FROM FRONT PAGE

Through brute force and meticulous planning, the Sunni extremist group — which said it was changing its name to just the Islamic State, dropping the mention of Iraq and the Levant — has carved out a large chunk of territory that has effectively erased the border between Iraq and Syria and laid the foundations of its proto-state. Along the way, it has battled Syrian rebels, Kurdish militias and the Syrian and Iraqi militaries.

Following the announcement, Islamic State fighters in their northern Syrian stronghold of Raqqa paraded through the city. Some of the revelers wore traditional robes and waved the group's black flags in a central square, while others zoomed around in pickup trucks against a backdrop of celebratory gunfire. Video of the events was posted online, and activists in the city confirmed the details.

The Islamic State expelled rival rebel groups from Raqqa this past spring, turning the city of 500,000 along the banks of the Euphrates River into an image of the state it envisions. Activists from Raqqa say music has been banned, Christians must pay an Islamic tax for protection, and violators of the strict interpretation of Islamic law are killed in the main square.

It is unclear whether the Islamic State's declaration heralds the imposition of the same rules elsewhere. So far, the group has taken a more moderate approach in cities under its control in Iraq, including the northern city of Mosul and the central city of Tikrit, choosing to overlook some practices it considers forbidden.

The extremist faction was also more lenient in towns in Syria before eventually tightening its hold.

The announcement was greeted with condemnation and disdain elsewhere in Syria, including from rival rebel groups who have been fighting the Islamic State since January.

"The gangs of al-Baghdadi are living in a fantasy world," said Abdel-Rahman al-Shami, a spokesman for the Army of Islam, an Islamist rebel group. "They're delusional. They want to establish a state but they don't have the elements for it. You cannot establish a state through looting, sabotage and bombing."

In Iraq, where the government has launched a counteroffensive to try to claw back some of the territory it has lost, the declaration is viewed through the prism of the country's rising sectarian tensions.

"This is a project that was well-planned to rupture the society and to spread chaos and damage," said Hamid al-Mutlaq, a Sunni lawmaker. "This is not to the benefit of the Iraqi people, but instead it will increase the differences and splits."



PHOTOS BY HUSSEIN MALLA/AP

Displaced Iraqi boys run behind a truck distributing food at a camp in the Khazer area outside Irbil for a communal meal for Muslims to break their fast on the first day of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

First day of Ramadan in Iraq chaotic

By DIAA HADED
The Associated Press

KALAK, Iraq — Waving pots and pans, police pushed back dozens of hungry Iraqi refugees as they rushed to seize free food, ending their first daylong fast of the holy Muslim month of Ramadan in an encampment for the displaced.

Shouting men scrambled Sunday to reach pots of rice, meat and chicken stew in this dusty, hot encampment some 60 miles from the northern city of Irbil, the capital of Iraq's self-ruled Kurdish region. The chaotic scene underscored the fearful insecurity of displaced Iraqis as they begin Ramadan in a nation gripped by unrest and bitterly divided along sectarian lines.

For Bashir Khalil, 39, a Shiite, and his wife, Nidal, 34, a Sunni, Ramadan has been robbed of its rhythm of communal solidarity.

The couple, who fled Iraq's second-largest city of Mosul after it was captured by Sunni extremists last month, has always been poor. But in their impoverished quarter of the city, neighbors shared their food. Here, when the food ended, there would be no more until another charity came by.

"When this food finishes, there'll be nothing else," Nidal Khalil lamented.

She and her husband fled after Sunni militants of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, who consider Shiites apostates, interrogated them. He was under suspicion as a Shiite, and she was questioned because she worked as a cleaner in a Shiite charity.

They returned days later after receiving assurances from local gunmen that they wouldn't be harmed, but found their home



Iraqi refugees run behind a truck from which people are distributing meals for Muslims to break their fast.

had been damaged in clashes. "We don't want this one or that one," said Nidal Khalil, referring to the Shiite-dominated government and the Sunni insurgents.

"Neither of them cares about us poor people."

Her mother-in-law, Shamsa, 70, sat nearby, smoking a cigarette.

Fasting Muslims are not supposed to smoke, eat or drink during daylight hours, but Shamsa shrugged and said she couldn't fast in the heat.

Though Bashir Khalil did not manage to get any of the food donated by a local television station, his daughter, Sara, 10, shared the bag filled with containers of soup,

rice and meat that she managed to grab in the melee.

At the encampment's edge, it was quiet in tent D42 where Umm Mishal, 49, watched the sun sink over the horizon alongside her youngest daughter, Amal, who wore a torn red dress.

"Ramadan is a generous, blessed month. We will not go hungry," Mishal said, even as she complained that other families



An Iraqi child at the camp holds a piece of bread. The grueling fast has been made even harsher for many living in dusty, hot tents.

had taken more than their fair share of the donated food, chaotically distributed off the back of trucks.

"They have grape juice," she said, pointing at another family.

Then, on a plastic sheet emblazoned with the United Nations' logo, she set out three tubs of soup, three plates of rice, a loaf of bread, a small roasted chicken and sliced watermelon.

The evening's meal was taken care of.

Suddenly giddy, she exclaimed, "God has blessed us!"

"Eat some chicken!" she said with a giggle.

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NATION

Court rules care workers can opt out of union fees

By SAM HANANEL
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court dealt a blow to public sector unions Monday, ruling that thousands of home health care workers in Illinois cannot be required to pay fees that help cover the union's costs of collective bargaining.

In a 5-4 split along ideological lines, the justices said the practice violates the First Amendment rights of nonmembers who disagree with the positions that unions take.

The ruling is a setback for labor unions that have bolstered their ranks — and bank accounts — in Illinois and other states by signing up hundreds of thousands of in-home care workers. It could lead to an exodus of members who will have little incentive to pay dues if nonmembers don't have to share the burden of union costs.

But the ruling was limited to this particular segment of workers and it stopped short of overturning decades of practice that has generally allowed public sector unions of teachers, firefighters and other government workers to pass through their representation costs to nonmembers.

Writing for the court, Justice Samuel Alito said home care workers "are different from full-fledged public employees" because they work primarily for their disabled or elderly customers and do not have most of the benefits of state employees. The ruling does not affect private sector workers.

The case involves about 26,000 Illinois workers who provide home care for disabled people and are paid with Medicaid funds administered by the state. In 2003, the state passed a measure demanding the workers state employees eligible for collective bargaining.

A majority of the workers then selected the Service Employees International Union to negotiate with the state to increase wages, improve health benefits and set up training programs. Those workers who chose not to join the union had to pay proportional "fair share" fees to cover collective bargaining and other administration costs.

A group of workers led by Pamela Harris — a home health aide who cares for her disabled son at home — filed a lawsuit arguing the fees violate the First Amendment. Backed by the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, they asked the court to force the state to make someone pay fees to a group that takes positions the fee-payer disagrees with.

The workers argued they are not government employees capable of being unionized in the traditional sense. They were different, they said, because they work in people's homes, not on government property, and are not supervised by other state employees. And they said the union is not merely seeking higher wages, but making a political push for expansion of Medicaid payments.



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVIS/AP

Demonstrators react to hearing the Supreme Court's decision on the Hobby Lobby contraception case outside the court in Washington on Monday.

Justices: Some firms don't have to cover birth control

By MARK SHERMAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled Monday that some corporations can hold religious objections that allow them to opt out of the new health law requirement that they cover contraceptives for women.

The justices' 5-4 decision is the first time that the high court has ruled that profit-seeking businesses can hold religious views under federal law. It means the Obama administration must search for a different way of providing free contraception to women who are covered under objecting companies' health insurance plans.

Contraception is among a range of preventive services that must be provided at no extra charge under the health care law that President Barack Obama signed in 2010 and the Supreme Court upheld two years later.

Two years ago, Chief Justice John Roberts cast the pivotal vote that saved the health care law in the midst of Obama's campaign for re-election. On Monday, dealing with a small sliver of the law, Roberts sided with the four justices who would have struck down the law in its entirety.

Justice Samuel Alito wrote the majority opinion. The court's four liberal justices dissented.

The court stressed that its ruling applies only to corporations that are under the control of just a few people in which there is no essential difference between the business and its owners, like the Oklahoma-based Hobby Lobby chain of arts-and-craft stores that challenged the provision.

Alito also said the decision is limited to contraceptive coverage under the health care law. "Our decision should not be understood to hold that an insurance-coverage mandate must necessarily fall if it conflicts with an employer's religious beliefs," Alito said.

He suggested two ways the administration could ensure women get the contraception they want. It

could simply pay for pregnancy prevention, he said.

Or it could provide the same kind of accommodation it has made available to religious-oriented, not-for-profit corporations. Those groups can tell the government that providing the coverage violates their religious beliefs. At that point, the groups' insurers or a third-party administrator takes on the responsibility of paying for the birth control.

The accommodation is the subject of separate legal challenges, but the court said Monday that the profit-seeking companies could not assert religious claims in such a situation.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, who was part of the majority, also wrote separately to emphasize that the administration can solve its problem easily. "The accommodation works by requiring insurance companies to cover, without cost sharing, contraception coverage for female employees who wish it," Kennedy said. He said that arrangement "does not impinge on the plaintiffs' religious beliefs."

Houses of worship and other religious institutions whose primary purpose is to spread the faith are exempt from the requirement to offer birth control.

In a dissent she read aloud from the bench, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg called the decision "potentially sweeping" because it minimizes the government's interest in uniform compliance with laws affecting the workplace. "And it discounts the disadvantages religion-based opt outs impose on others, in particular, employees who do not share their employer's religious beliefs," Ginsburg said.

The administration said a victory for the companies would prevent women who work for them from making decisions about birth control based on what's best for their health, not whether they can afford it. The government's supporters pointed to research showing that nearly one-third of women would change their contraceptive if cost were not an issue. A very effective means of birth control, the intrauterine device, can cost up to \$1,000.

scientific mainstream and have been rejected for good reason.

Liberty Counsel, a Christian legal aid group, had challenged the law along with other supporters of the therapy. They argue that lawmakers have no scientific proof the therapy does harm.

From The Associated Press

Suspects sought after 9 shot on Bourbon Street

NEW ORLEANS — Police continued searching Monday for two men who exchanged gunfire on Bourbon Street in the French Quarter, leaving nine people shot in the crossfire, including two who were in critical condition.

Images captured from a surveillance camera showed people running down the street in the chaos of the shooting at 2:45 a.m. Sunday.

New Orleans Police Chief Ronald Serpas said six victims were hospitalized in stable condition. The other victim's condition was not available. Serpas said at a news conference that the victims were shot "by two cowardly young men trying to hurt each other."

City marks anniversary of firefighters' deaths

PRESCOTT, Ariz. — This Arizona city is marking the one-year anniversary of the deaths of 19 wildland firefighters with a simple ceremony — the names of the Granite Mountain Hotshots will be read before a bell chimes for each and bagpipes play "Amazing Grace."

Meanwhile, the men's families on Monday planned to gather at the Prescott cemetery where 10 of the Hotshots are buried for a private service. Each of the 19 has a plot with a bronze grave marker that will be etched with images taken from family photos. Surrounding the plots is a wall where mourners can sit and room for family members buried alongside the firefighters.

Gun show shooting a 'horrible accident'

ORANGEVILLE, Pa. — A woman wounded at a central Pennsylvania gun show during the weekend said she doesn't blame the vendor who shot her accidentally while demonstrating a concealed carry wallet holster.

In fact, Krista Gearhart, 25, told the (Bloomburg) Press Enterprise on Monday that her heart goes out to him for what she calls the "horrible accident."

Police in Columbia County said Gearhart was shot in the right thigh on Saturday at the Eagle Arms Gun Show at the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds. Prosecutors will determine whether criminal charges will be filed.

Dozens stranded on ride at SeaWorld

SAN DIEGO — Dozens of people were stranded more than 200 feet up in a revolving tower at SeaWorld San Diego for hours Sunday when a power failure stalled the ride, authorities said.

Forty-six visitors and two park employees were on the Skytower when it halted. The ride features a revolving capsule that rises to the top of a 320-foot tower to give visitors a panoramic view.

After four hours, power was restored and the ride descended shortly before 7:30 p.m.

No injuries were reported but a 27-year-old boy was taken to a hospital for treatment of anxiety, Swanson said.

From The Associated Press

Court rejects challenge to gay therapy ban

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court has rejected a challenge to California's law that bars mental counseling aimed at turning gay minors straight.

The justices on Monday let stand an appeals court ruling that

said the state's ban on so-called conversion therapy for minors doesn't violate the free speech rights of licensed counselors and patients seeking treatment.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last year that California lawmakers properly showed that efforts to change sexual orientation were outside the

NATION

Agents work remotely to meet border challenges

By ELLIOT SPAGAT
The Associated Press

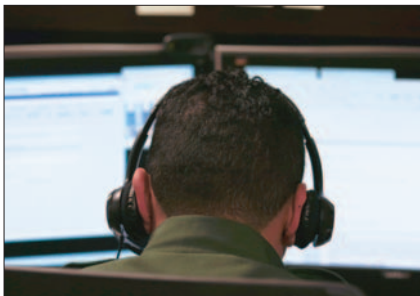
SAN DIEGO — The downcast faces on computer screens are 1,500 miles away at a Border Patrol station in McAllen, Texas: a 20-year old Honduran woman arrested rafting across the Rio Grande and a 23-year-old man caught under similar circumstances.

Four agents wearing headsets reel through a list of personal questions, spending up to an hour on each adult and even longer on children. On an average day, hundreds of migrants are questioned on camera by agents in San Diego and other stations on the U.S.-Mexico border.

The long-distance interviews — introduced last year in El Paso, Texas, and extended to California — are a response to the dramatic increase in Central Americans crossing the border in Texas that also has flooded immigration facilities with hundreds of women and children. The Border Patrol does not have the staff to process all the immigrants crossing in the Rio Grande Valley, but faraway colleagues have time to spare.

The remote video processing reveals a perpetual predicament that has long bedeviled the Border Patrol. Many agents wind up stationed in places where crossing activity is slowest because the Border Patrol struggles to keep up with constantly shifting migration patterns.

One example of the staffing mismatch: The roughly 2,500 agents in the San Diego sector arrested 97 immigrants illegally crossing the border on June 14, according to an internal document reviewed by The Associated Press. On the same day, the roughly 3,200 agents in the Rio Grande Valley made 1,422 arrests.



GREGORY BULL/AP

A Border Patrol agent at a facility in San Diego uses a headset and computer to conduct a long-distance interview with a person arrested crossing the border in Texas on June 5.

President Barack Obama will ask Congress for more than \$2 billion to respond to the flood of immigrants illegally entering the U.S. through the Rio Grande Valley and for new powers to deal with returning unaccompanied children, a White House official said Saturday. A letter was to be sent to Congress on Monday, said the official who was not authorized to speak by name and discussed the requests on condition of anonymity. The exact amount and how it will be spent will come after Congress returns from recess on July 7. Whether any funds will go toward border staffing is unknown.

In San Diego, the video processing is a welcome change of pace. Arrests are at 45-year lows and many agents go entire shifts without finding anyone. Cesar Rodriguez, who joined the Border Patrol in 2010, said eight

hours fly by since he gave up his assignment watching a stretch of scrub-covered hills east of San Diego and took on a new assignment to process the immigrants via video.

"If there's nothing going on, what are you going to do? You're just staring at the fence," Rodriguez said in his new office, whose parking lot offers sweeping views of hillside homes in Tijuana, Mexico.

A few feet away, Victor Nunez says he interviewed a woman carrying a 4-month-old child and spent his last shift working on a group of 93 people that crossed the Rio Grande at once. Such activity was unheard of on his overnight shift patrolling the quiet mountains near San Diego.

"I feel like we're helping out other agents," said Nunez, who joined the Border Patrol in 2011. "It's a big problem going on there."

Workplace secrecy pacts seen rising

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — In November 2012, the U.S. Department of Energy asked contract employees at the Hanford plutonium processing plant in Washington state to take an unusual oath.

The DOE wanted them to sign nondisclosure agreements that prevented them from reporting wrongdoing at the nation's most contaminated nuclear facility without getting approval from an agency supervisor. The agreements also barred them from using any information for financial gain, a possible violation of federal whistleblower laws, which allow employees to collect reward money for reporting wrongdoing.

Donna Busche reluctantly signed the agreement.

"It was a gag order," said Bus-

che, 51, who served as the manager of environmental and nuclear safety at the Hanford waste treatment facility for a federal contractor until she was fired in February after raising safety concerns. "The message was pretty clear: 'Don't say anything to anyone, or else.'"

The company that fired Busche, URS, has said her termination was unrelated to her whistleblowing. Busche and another employee testified before Congress in March at a hearing called by Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., to examine the handling of whistleblowers at Hanford.

An Energy spokesman denied that the nondisclosure agreements violated federal law.

"The DOE fully complies with the law," Brendan Daly said. "We not only encourage but require contractors to report waste, fraud

and abuse, with no retaliation."

Lawyers who represent whistleblowers like Busche say they are seeing a rise in the use of overly restrictive nondisclosure agreements, which prevent employees from reporting fraud, even to government investigators. The agreements incorporate language that goes beyond those that had traditionally protected proprietary information, the lawyers said.

In recent months, agreements criticized as overly restrictive have surfaced at Kellogg, Brown and Root, one of the nation's largest defense contractors, and International Relief and Development, a nonprofit organization in Arlington County, Va. The nonprofit collected more than \$1 billion in tax dollars for war-related projects funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Incumbents snug in seats

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress is wildly unpopular.

In fact, two-thirds of Americans want their own House member booted. And the tea party is dogging longtime Republican lawmakers.

So incumbents are sweating out this year's election, right? Nope. Mostly they're not.

People talk about throwing the bums out, but voters keep sending the same bunch back in.

More than halfway through the party primaries, 293 House and Senate members have completed their quests for re-election.

The score: Incumbents 291, challengers 2.

Granted, one of those two losses was a shocker: A virtual unknown, Dave Brat, toppled House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, of Virginia, in a Republican primary.

Two longtime lawmakers — Republican Sen. Thad Cochran, of Mississippi, and Democratic Rep. Charles Rangel, of New York — barely clung to nominations to their seats Tuesday.

But those rare exciting races that draw national attention are misleading. Most of the House candidates, about 60 percent so far, didn't have a soul running against them. Only a few faced a challenger who posed a real threat. No senator has been defeated yet.

What about November, when Republicans and Democrats face off in the general election?

It looks to be a dramatic midterm, with Republicans pushing to seize control of the Senate. More incumbents will be vulnerable in the general election than the primaries. Still, the vast majority of sitting lawmakers are snug in their seats.

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WORLD

Ukraine president faces decision on cease-fire

By DAVID McHUGH
AND BALINT SZLANKO
The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Ukraine's president faced a decision Monday on whether to extend a shaky cease-fire with pro-Russia rebels in the country's east as European leaders pressed Russia to help de-escalate the simmering conflict.

President Petro Poroshenko has already extended the cease-fire from seven days to 10 as part of a peace plan to end the conflict that has killed more than 400 people. National security spokesman Andriy Lysenko said the presidential decision would come before the cease-fire expires at 3 p.m. EDT.

Sporadic fighting still flared Monday despite the cease-fire. Shelling killed at least two people and ruined several apartments in the rebel-held city of Sloviansk in the eastern separatist region of Donetsk.

Poroshenko has demanded that rebels return part of a strip of Russia border to Ukrainian control and allow international monitors to verify the cease-fire. Rebels in the past have kidnapped several times of monitors.

European leaders have pressed Russia to help de-escalate the situation or face the possibility of additional economic sanctions. A four-way phone call was to take place Monday among Poroshenko, Russian President Vladimir Putin, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande.

The four also spoke for two



DMITRY LOVETSKY/AP

A woman cries near her burning house after shelling in the city of Sloviansk in eastern Ukraine on Monday.

hours on Sunday as Poroshenko struggled to get his peace plan past a wobbly start. Ukraine says the rebels are still attacking, and locals reported near Poroshenko's office in Kiev on Sunday, demanding military action against the separatists.

Poroshenko says his unilateral cease-fire is a first step to give

rebels a chance to lay down their arms. Further steps would include an amnesty for separatists who have not committed serious crimes, early local elections and changes in the constitution to decentralize power to Ukraine's regions.

In Sloviansk, shooting kept up through the night and into Monday morning. Residents said the army appeared to start shelling after rebels opened fire. Heavy shelling was heard throughout the town from 6 to 7 a.m. local time.

Some of the shelling appeared to be directed at rebel front-line positions outside the city, while other shells landed in a residential neighborhood, destroying or damaging several buildings.

Ukrainian police and prosecutors were investigating the death of a cameraman working for Russia's Channel One. Anatoly Klyan, 68, was fatally wounded when a bus carrying journalists and soldiers' mothers was hit by gunfire.

Channel One said its crew was traveling late Sunday to a Ukrainian military base with the mothers of conscripts hoping to bring their sons home when their bus came under attack near Aidiivka, a village north of the city of Donetsk. Channel One said the trip was organized by the rebels and that the bus, whose driver was wearing camouflage, came under fire as it approached the military base in the dark.

Russia's Foreign Ministry blamed the attack on Ukrainian soldiers and demanded an objective investigation.



LAETITIA NOTARIANNI/AP

Russian sailors of the warship Smolny arrive in the harbor of St. Nazaire in western France on Monday.

Russian navy arrives in France for training

The Associated Press

SAINT-NAZAIRE, France — A Russian naval ship carrying 400 sailors docked Monday at a French harbor to start weeks of training aboard a warship that France is selling to Russia as part of a criticized \$1.6 billion deal.

France has pushed ahead with the 2011 contract — the biggest-ever sale of NATO weaponry to Moscow — despite renewed criticism after Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula.

The Russian ship Smolny docked just behind the warship Vladivostok in the Atlantic coastal port of Saint-Nazaire, where restaurants had translated their menus into Russian to welcome the contingent.

The Russian sailors will spend

the summer in Saint-Nazaire, learning how to operate Vladivostok. France says the ship can carry 700 troops, 16 helicopter gunships and as many as 50 armored vehicles.

French officials have said the Vladivostok is on track to be delivered by the last quarter of this year. A sister ship, the Sevastopol — named after a Russian-controlled port in Crimea — is scheduled to be delivered about a year later.

The French president's office said last week that the sale of the Mistral class ships would not be included in any new sanctions against Russia, but officials have refused to comment on any discussions with the U.S. or other allies.

Syria: Mortar shells hit northern city, killing 14

ALBERT AJI
AND BARBARA SURK

DAMASCUS, Syria — A barrage of mortar shells hit government-held areas of the northern Syrian city of Idlib on Monday, killing 14 people and wounding at least 50, Syrian state media said.

Idlib is the provincial capital in northwestern Syria, and it has been under the control of President Bashar Assad's troops since the beginning of the Syrian conflict in March 2011.

Rebels trying to overthrow Assad's government control the areas around the city. They have been besieging the city for more than two years, firing mortars into the government-held areas and clashing with Assad's troops at its outskirts.

The state-run SANA news agency said mortar shells fell on several parts of Idlib on Monday afternoon, including a residential area and a market. State TV said children were among those who died in the attacks, and at least 50 people were wounded.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks. State TV blamed "terrorists" for the attacks, a term the Syrian government uses for rebels trying to overthrow Assad's government.

Also Monday, activists reported heavy clashes between several Syrian rebel factions and a mili-

tant group fighting for control of a border crossing with Iraq in eastern Syria.

The fighting in the town of Boukamal, on the border between Syria and Iraq, between rebel groups and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant comes just hours after the jihadi group declared the establishment of a transnational Islamic caliphate.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the infighting was concentrated in the town and the nearby border crossing, as different factions sought control of the territory.

The ISIL controls much of northeastern Syria. In Iraq, it has recently captured cities and towns as well as border crossings, effectively erasing the frontier.

The group says its Islamic state stretches from northern Syria to the Iraqi province of Diyala, northeast of Baghdad, and has called on all Muslims worldwide to pledge allegiance to it.

Last week, beleaguered fighters of the Nusra Front, which has previously fought the ISIL in opposition-held territory in northern and eastern Syria, defected and joined a jihadi group in Boukamal — effectively handing over the border town to the powerful group which controls the Iraqi side of the crossing.

Rebel infighting has turned into a war within a war in Syria.

Ground offensive begins in Pakistan

By ASIF SHAHZAD
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan launched a ground offensive against militant strongholds near the Afghan border on Monday after evacuating nearly half a million people from the tribal region, the army said.

The ground offensive is the second phase of a long-awaited operation against militants in the North Waziristan tribal area, a lawless, mountainous stretch of land in northwest Pakistan. The military announced the operation on June 15 but has mostly limited its tactics to airstrikes while giving time to hundreds of thousands of people to pack up their belongings and leave to safer areas.

The U.S. began to push for such an operation after militants started using the area as a safe haven from which to attack targets in both Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The army began a house-to-house search in Miran Shah, the main town in North Waziristan, a statement said. It said nearly 15 militants were killed in the initial ground advance. The town is also

the headquarters for a number of different militant groups such as the Pakistani Taliban.

The operation began days after militants attacked the main airport in the southern port city of Karachi, killing 26 people. The 10 assailants were also killed in the roughly five-hour siege that shocked Pakistanis by showing how vulnerable the country's institutions have become.

Pakistani forces killed 376 militants during the first 15 days of the offensive, the statement said, adding that 17 troops also died.

North Waziristan was already a difficult area for journalists to access, but the operation has made it even more difficult to independently verify reports of casualties.

The military said infantry troops and commandos are leading the ground advance.

The Pakistani army has already conducted several military operations in the tribal badlands along the Afghan border, including offensives in 2009 in the scenic Swat valley and in South Waziristan, the longtime headquarters of the Pakistani Taliban.



B.K. BANGASH/AP

A displaced Pakistani mother and her daughter wait for relief supplies at a distribution center in Bannu, Pakistan, on Friday.

WORLD

US, Filipino Marines stage mock assault

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO, Philippines — More than 100 Filipino and U.S. marines in assault amphibious vehicles conducted a mock assault on imaginary enemies in military drills Monday on a beach in northwestern Philippines facing the South China Sea, where Manila is locked in a territorial dispute with China.

The amphibious tanks sailed from a U.S. ship anchored a distance away, then rolled onto the beach of San Antonio, Zamboanga, northwest of the Philippine capital Manila, disgorging the Filipino and American

sailors and marines armed with automatic rifles.

The exercise is part of the annual Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training that the U.S. conducts with its allies in Asia, including the Philippines, to address maritime security, strengthen partnerships and enhance interoperability.

Officials said the maneuvers were not directed at China, which has been criticized for its increasingly assertive behavior in disputed South China Sea territories.

The Philippines, the oldest of Washington's five defense treaty allies in Asia,

has turned to the U.S. to modernize its ill-equipped military amid the increasingly tense territorial rifts with China.

"Whenever we do an exercise, we always train to improve our capabilities. It is not meant for whatever threat or situation that are current," said Philippine Navy Commander Roland Joseph Mercado.

Marine Maj. Damon Torres, commanding officer of the U.S. landing force in the exercise, said the drills were a good opportunity to coordinate and learn about each other's capabilities.

China, the Philippines, Brunei, Malay-

sia, Taiwan and Vietnam have overlapping claims in potentially oil- and gas-rich areas in the busy South China Sea, with Beijing laying claim to virtually the entire body of water.

The disputes between Beijing and Manila have worsened since Chinese government ships effectively gained control of the disputed Scarborough Shoal in 2012 then blockaded the Second Thomas Shoal, where Philippine marines have been based on a grounded navy ship since 1999.

Scarborough Shoal lies about 90 miles west where Monday's exercise was held.

North Korea to try American tourists over 'hostile' acts

By ERIC TALMADGE

The Associated Press

TOKYO — North Korea said Monday it is preparing to try two Americans who entered the country as tourists for carrying out what it says were hostile acts against the country.

Though a small number of U.S. citizens visit North Korea each year as tourists, the State Department strongly advises against it.

Investigations into Americans Matthew Todd Miller and Jeffrey Edward Fowle concluded that suspicions about their hostile acts have been confirmed by evidence and their testimonies. Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency said in a short report.

KCNA said North Korea is making preparations to bring them before a court. It did not specify what the two did that was considered hostile or illegal, or what kind of punishment they might face. It also did not say when the trial would begin.

Fowle arrived in the country on April 29. North Korea's state media said in June that authorities were investigating him for committing acts inconsistent with the purpose of a tourist visit.

Diplomatic sources said Fowle was detained for leaving the Bible in his hotel room. But a spokesman for Fowle's family said the 56-year-old from Ohio was not on a mission for his church.

His wife and three children said they miss him very much and "are anxious for his return home," according to a statement after his detention that was provided by a spokesman for the family.

KCNA said Miller, 24, entered the country April 10 with a tourist visa, but tore it up at the airport and shouted that he wanted to seek asylum. A large number of Western tourists visited Pyongyang in April to run in the annual Pyongyang Marathon or attend related events. Miller came at that time, but tour organizers say he was not planning to join the

marathon.

North Korea has also been separately holding Korean-American missionary Kenneth Bae since November 2012. He was convicted by a North Korean court and is serving 15 years of hard labor, also for what the North says were hostile acts against the state.

The latest arrests present a conundrum for Washington, which has no diplomatic ties with the North and no embassy in Pyongyang.

Instead, the Swedish Embassy takes responsibility for U.S. consular affairs in the North. State Department officials say they cannot release details about the cases because they need a privacy waiver to do so.

Pyongyang has been strongly pushing tourism lately in an effort to bring in foreign cash. The tourism push has been directed at Chinese, who by far are the most common visitors to the North, but the still small number of Western tourists to North Korea has been growing.

Despite its efforts to bring in more tourists, the North remains highly sensitive to any actions it considers political and is particularly wary of anything it deems to be Christian proselytizing.

After Miller's detention, Washington updated its travel warning to the North to note that over the past 18 months, "North Korea detained several U.S. citizens who were part of organized tours. Do not assume that joining a group tour or use of a tour guide will prevent your arrest or detention by North Korean authorities."

It added that efforts by private tour operators to prevent or resolve past detentions of U.S. citizens in the DPRK have not succeeded in gaining their release.

The Korean Peninsula is still in a technical state of war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. About 28,500 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea.



ANN YOUNG-JOON/AP

South Korean army soldiers patrol the military wire fence in Paju, near the border with North Korea, South Korea, on Monday. North Korea demanded that South Korea cancel annual military drills with the U.S. this summer to promote reconciliation ahead of the Asian Games.

North demands S. Korea and US cancel drills before Asian Games

By HYUNG-JIN KIM

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea demanded Monday that rival South Korea cancel annual military drills with the U.S. this summer to promote reconciliation ahead of the Asian Games, which South Korea is hosting and North Korea has said it will enter.

The demand, among a set of proposals made by North Korea's powerful National Defense Commission, showed that the North intends to use its participation in the games as a negotiating card with South Korea, analysts say. The Asian Games are scheduled to take place in the South Korean city of Incheon from Sept. 19 to Oct. 4.

Analysts say North Korea is pursuing better ties with the outside world to obtain investment and aid to revive its troubled economy. But officials in Seoul and Washington have said the North must first take steps toward nuclear disarmament to earn any

economic help.

On Monday, the North's defense commission said it wants South Korea-U.S. military drills planned for August to be scrapped immediately, saying they are a preparation for an attack. It didn't say what it would do if the drills go ahead. The allies have said they have no intention of invading the North.

"With its Asian Games participation as a negotiation tool, North Korea is pushing for South Korea to cancel the drills or conduct them in a dramatically less threatening manner," said Lim Eun Chul, a North Korea expert at South Korea's Kyungnam University.

Lim and other analysts said North Korea might boycott the Asian Games if the drills go ahead in the same manner as in previous years or if relations with Seoul develop in a direction it doesn't want.

North Korea boycotted the 1986 Asian Games and the 1988 Sum-

mer Olympics, both in Seoul, but attended the 2002 Asian Games in Busan and the 2003 University Games in Daegu.

The defense commission, in a statement carried by state media, proposed that the two Koreas halt hostile military acts against each other at border areas and stop psychological warfare starting Friday, the 42nd anniversary of a historic 1972 joint statement on peaceful reunification.

North Korea has made similar proposals in the past, but they have quickly fizzled as tension between the rivals flared. South Korea's Unification Ministry said it is deciding whether to make a formal response to the North Korean proposals.

The proposals are largely seen as testing whether the conservative South Korean government of President Park Geun-hye, who faces public criticism following a deadly ferry disaster in April, wants to break the deadlock in inter-Korean ties, Lim said.

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OPINION

Federal incompetence not limited to IRS

Baltimore Sun editorial

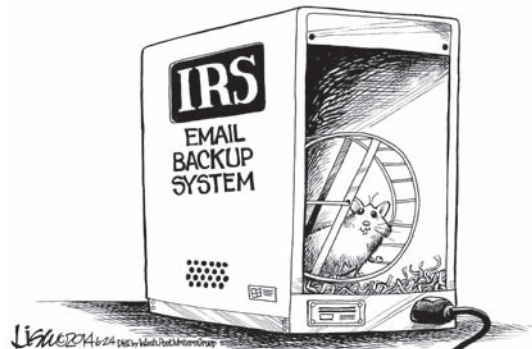
Take a minute and Google the term "Internal Revenue Service" or "IRS," and you will find no shortage of famous quotes from people who are fearful of it. The federal agency has been compared to the Gestapo, the Mafia and the Lord Almighty. Such is the power of the tax collector to strike terror into the hearts of the audited.

But recent testimony before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee has conjured a new image for the IRS — clueless, bureaucratic, disorganized and technologically incompetent. What started as a Republican inquisition into former IRS employee Lois Lerner and the treatment of conservative, nonprofit organizations seeking tax-exempt status has morphed into something less nefarious and more pathetic — turns out the agency that requires you keep records for years can't keep theirs for more than about six months.

To any taxpayer who is paying even half-attention to the proceedings, it's infuriating. The IRS wants receipts for everything, elaborate forms properly filled out and for you to hold onto all those records for quite a long time. Yet the agency's inability to produce Lerner's emails to House investigators (in part because of a computer hard-drive failure in 2011) suggests at the least a double-standard but more likely a deeply dysfunctional organization.

Naturally, Chairman Darrell Issa and other Republicans on the committee have had a field day with this, straining to show higher levels of outrage and anger. Too bad it took a political witch hunt — aimed at the possibility of some level of White House involvement, which now appears to be nil — for Congress to actually show some oversight. Why, for instance, was it ever regarded as acceptable that such a critical federal agency could have such a woeful computer system with such a modest email capability?

Forget potential coverups — there's been no evidence of any broad conspiracy — the committee ought to be focused on how the IRS could be allowed to maintain such low standards for technology and was never held accountable. Personal email was never regarded as an official record for



anyone employed by the agency, let alone Lerner. And IRS officials were slow to notify Congress that Lerner's emails were irretrievable.

Democrats are certain to counter that some of the dysfunction within the agency is because of a deliberate effort by conservatives to "starve" the IRS. The agency took quite a hit in 2011 with a \$600 million sequester cut, and there's plenty of evidence those cutbacks have reduced its ability to enforce tax laws — or tackle new responsibilities like enforcing the health insurance mandate imposed by the Affordable Care Act.

President Barack Obama has proposed funding the IRS at 2010 levels, but a House appropriations subcommittee has instead sought to cut it back further — to roughly 18 percent below 2010 levels when inflation is taken into account, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a nonprofit that studies the impact of budget and tax decisions on low-income families. The agency's staff has been cut by 11 percent over that same period, and one of the worst hit areas has been training, where the budget has been reduced by 87 percent, the CBPP reports. Such reductions offer a dubious benefit to taxpayers and widen the

deficit, as studies have shown every additional dollar spent on IRS enforcement efforts translates into \$4 in unpaid taxes collected.

If Republicans really want to make political hay over the Internal Revenue Service, they ought to give IRS Commissioner John Koskinen, a management expert who has been on the job less than a year, every tool he needs (including a sufficient budget) to correct these problems and then evaluate his performance. It's fine to yell at him for not informing them about Lerner's missing emails earlier, but one hopes that the commissioner has bigger fish to fry — like holding the agency to the same record-keeping standards that it holds taxpayers.

Merely vilifying the IRS, railing against Koskinen or implying massive scheming and coverups isn't really oversight. Congressional investigators ought to be pointing at least one of their fingers at themselves and their failure to overhaul an increasingly complicated federal tax code — or their efforts to starve the IRS into paralysis. The Internal Revenue Service may be incompetent and hypocritical, but it's not the only powerful organization in Washington that looks that way these days.

No-fly list still needed, but flaws must be fixed

Washington Post editorial

For far too long, U.S. officials have operated the no-fly list in secrecy, barring people from planes without offering them an explanation or a meaningful way to get off the list. That may soon end, thanks to a federal court ruling late last month in Oregon.

After examining current procedures, security concerns and individual rights, District Judge Anna Brown declared that the no-fly list violates due process. The system contains a "fundamental deficiency," she wrote, with the result being that "an individual could be doomed to indefinite placement on the NoFly List." The government currently refuses to alert people to their placement on the list, share evidence that might justify the listing or offer a reasonable way to clear their name. Brown ordered those problems fixed.

The government had argued, implausibly, that the plane could travel by land or sea. Brown rightly responded that, in the 21st century, the right to international

travel is constitutionally protected.

The 13 Muslim-American plaintiffs suspect that they are on the no-fly list, but in many cases the government has refused to confirm or deny the fact. A military veteran, Ayman Latif, lost his disability benefits because he could not fly home for his scheduled evaluations. He is now unable to travel on the hajj, the Muslim pilgrimage. Officials detained another veteran, Raymond Earl Knaeble IV, for more than 15 hours when he attempted to return to the United States through Mexico. FBI agents allegedly offered another plaintiff, Nagib Ali Ghaleb, a flight back to the United States if he agreed "to tell them who the 'bad guys' were in Yemen and San Francisco and to provide names of people from his mosque and community."

Ghaleb's case illustrates the potential for abuse in such a secretive operation. The no-fly list, created after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, is meant to identify those who are a threat to civil aviation or national security. Its purpose was never to become a method of coercion for law enforcement officials.

Because of the absence of process, Ghaleb had nowhere to turn. A case pending in the New York District Court involves plaintiffs similar to Ghaleb, who were asked to become FBI informants to avoid getting on the list.

In such a complex undertaking, mistakes will happen. Rahinah Ibrahim, dean of a Malaysian architecture school, was put on the no-fly list because an agent accidentally checked the wrong box. She regained her ability to fly only after a lawsuit and a nine-year wait. A transparent process could have remedied Ibrahim's problem much sooner.

We sympathize with federal officials who remain under relentless pressure to keep air travel safe. The natural human reaction in such a situation is to err on the side of caution: Better to violate one person's right to travel, an agent may reckon, than to risk a catastrophe. That's all the more reason to put in place a system of checks and balances. Rather than appealing Brown's decision, the U.S. government should accept it as an opportunity for reform.

OPINION

Obama's the anti-Truman, not the anti-Bush

By MARC A. THIESSEN
The Washington Post

In July 2007, President George W. Bush was in the Oval Office going over a speech about the Iraq surge when some of his advisers started pressing him to insert a line about how he looked forward to withdrawing U.S. forces.

Bush was having none of it. "People have to stop thinking Vietnam, and start thinking Korea," he told us with exasperation in his voice. Bush pointed out that in both Asia and Europe, U.S. forces were still in essentially the same garrisons where Harry Truman had left them when wars ended there a half-century earlier — and our continuing presence had provided a security umbrella that allowed peace to prevail and democratic allies to emerge. The same, he said, would be true of Iraq and Afghanistan. So stop talking about withdrawal, Bush instructed us. "We're going to have troops there for 50 years."

Bush was wrong. In 2011, President Barack Obama withdrew all U.S. forces from Iraq and has announced plans to do the same in Afghanistan by 2016. Obama's unmistakable objective is to make sure there are no U.S. troops in either country by the time he leaves office so that he can go down in history as the president who ended George W. Bush's wars.

Obama clearly sees himself as the anti-Bush. But he is not the anti-Bush. He is the anti-Truman. He is rejecting not the legacy of his Republican predecessor, but the legacy of one of the great Democratic statesmen of the 20th century.

Like Obama, Truman faced a population that wanted to bring our troops home. But Truman refused to withdraw after World War II, keeping U.S. forces in Germany to deter Soviet aggression and keeping U.S. forces in Japan as a counterweight to communist China. Indeed, he deployed U.S. forces to Korea to check communist aggression and kept them in place to patrol the 38th parallel when the Korean War ended. The military presence



EVAN VUCCI/AP

President Barack Obama salutes during the Marine Barracks Evening Parade on Friday in Washington.

he established on two continents served as the foundation for security in Europe and in the Pacific — and gave us seven decades of peace.

Imagine what Europe and the Pacific would look like if Truman had followed the Obama model and removed all U.S. forces from Germany, Japan and Korea. Does anyone imagine that South Korea would be an independent country and a democratic ally of the U.S. if U.S. troops had not been patrolling the Demilitarized Zone since 1957? Or that the Cold War would have ended with the peaceful collapse of the Soviet Union if America had not kept U.S. forces deployed in Europe since 1945?

Obama says "It's time to turn the page on more than a decade in which so much of our foreign policy was focused on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq." After World War II, Truman knew that Americans wanted

to turn the page as well. But when Josef Stalin tested the United States' resolve with a blockade of Berlin, Truman did not hesitate. He launched the Berlin Airlift, delivering supplies to the besieged city and forcing the Soviets to back down. Truman understood that just because Americans were weary of war did not mean our adversaries were — and his actions secured the freedom of West Berlin. Today, Iraq is besieged by Islamist terrorists. Where is the modern equivalent of the Berlin Airlift for Iraq?

Obama says it is "time to focus on nation-building here at home." After World War II, Americans wanted to focus on nation-building at home too. But Truman knew that if the U.S. failed to lead, Nazi tyranny would soon be replaced by Soviet tyranny in Europe — and with it a moral threat to the U.S. would rise. So Truman launched

the Marshall Plan, which cost about \$100 billion in today's dollars. He knew the plan would be unpopular and would face strong opposition from Republicans in Congress. But he also knew that it would save Western Europe from Soviet domination.

Toward the end of his presidency, Truman said, "When history says that my term of office saw the beginning of the Cold War, it will also say that in those eight years we set the course that can win it."

Not end it. Win it.

As with Obama, Truman's popularity began to plummet in his second term. But because of the courageous decisions he made on the world stage, history has been kind to Harry Truman. History will not be kind to Barack Obama if he continues to define his legacy by withdrawing troops, not winning wars.

Marc A. Thiessen is a Washington Post columnist.

Why it's way too soon to give up on the Arab Spring

By JUAN COLE

Three and a half years ago, the world was riveted by massive crowds of youths mobilizing in Cairo's Tahrir Square to demand an end to Egypt's dreary police state. We watched transfixed as a movement first ignited in Tunisia spread from one part of Egypt to another, and then from country to country across the region. Before it was over, four presidents-for-life had been toppled and the region's remaining dictators were unsettled.

Some 42 months later, in most of the Middle East and North Africa, the bright hopes for more personal liberties and an end to political and economic stagnation envisioned by those young people led by Arab millennials, by young people who have decades left to come into their own. Don't count them out yet.

Given the short span of time since Tahrir Square, it is far too soon to predict where these massive movements will end. During the "Prague Spring" of 1968, let's remember, a young dissident playwright, Václav Havel, took to the airwaves on Radio Free

Czechoslovakia and made a name for himself as Soviet tanks approached. But then, after a Russian invasion crushed the uprising, Havel had to seek work in a brewery, forbidden to stage his plays.

That wasn't the end of the story, however. Two decades later, after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, Havel became the first president of the Czech Republic.

Or consider the French Revolution: Three and a half years after the storming of the Bastille, the country was facing a pro-royalist uprising in the Vendee, south of the Loire Valley, a conflict that ultimately left more than 100,000 (and possibly as many as 450,000) people dead.

And let's remember that a decade passed between the Boston Tea Party and the American victory in the Revolutionary War.

There are, of course, plenty of reasons for pessimism in the short — and perhaps even medium — term in the Middle East. But when it comes to youth revolutions, it's a pretty good bet that most of their truest accomplishments will come decades later. The young Arabs who made the recent revolutions are, in fact, distinctive: substantially more urban, literate, media-savvy and wired than their parents and grandparents. They are also somewhat less religiously observant, though still deeply polarized between nationalists and devotees of political Islam.

And keep in mind that the median age of

the 370 million Arabs on this planet is only 24, about half that of graying Japan or Germany. While India and Indonesia also have big youth populations, Arab youth suffer disproportionately from the low rates of investment in their countries and staggeringly high unemployment rates. They are, that is, primed for action.

Analysts have tended to focus on the politics of the Arab youth revolutions and so have missed the more important, longer-term story of a generational shift in values, attitudes and mobilizing tactics. The youth movements were, in part, intended to provoke the holding of genuine, transparent elections, and yet the millennials were too young to stand for office when they happened. That ensured that actual politics would remain dominated by older Arab bay'eeners, many of whom are far more interested in political Islam or praetorian authoritarianism.

The first wave of writing about the revolutions of 2011 discounted or ignored religion because the youth movements were predominantly secular and either liberal or leftist in approach. When those rebellions provoked elections in which Muslim fundamentalists did well, a second round of books lamented a supposed "Islamic Winter."

Yet, in Egypt, the Muslim Brotherhood has been ousted (albeit through a reassertion of power by the military). In Libya, Muslim fundamentalist candidates could

not get a majority in parliament in 2012. Even in Tunisia, where the religious right formed the first postrevolutionary government, it was able to rule only in coalition with secularists and leftists.

As they wait their time, many of the millennial activists who briefly turned the Arab world upside down and provoked so many changes are putting their energies into nongovernmental organizations, thousands of which have flowered, barely noticed. Others continue to coordinate with labor unions to promote the welfare of the working classes.

In this way, they are learning valuable organizational skills that — count on it — will one day be applied to politics. Their dislike of nepotism, narrow cliques and ethnic or sectarian rule has already had a lasting effect on the politics of the Arab world.

And two or three decades from now, the 20-somethings of Tahrir Square and the Casbah in Tunis and Martyrs' Square in Tripoli will, like the Havelis of the Middle East, come to power as politicians.

We haven't heard the last of the Middle East's millennial generation.

Juan Cole is director of the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies at the University of Michigan and the author of "The New Arabs: How the Millennial Generation is Changing the Middle East." A longer version of this piece, which first appeared in the Los Angeles Times, appears on tomdispatch.com.

NATION

Gay pride parades take place across US

By VERENA DOBNIK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gay pride parades stepped off around the nation on Sunday in cities large and small, with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and their supporters celebrating a year of same-sex marriage victories.

New York's Fifth Avenue became one giant rainbow as thousands of participants waved multicolored flags while making their way down the street. Politicians including Mayor Bill de Blasio and Gov. Andrew Cuomo were among those walking along a lavender line painted on the avenue from midtown Manhattan to the West Village.

The parade marked the 45th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, the 1969 uprising against police raids that were a catalyst for the gay rights movement. The parade route passes The Stonewall Inn, the site of the riots.

In Chicago, as many as 1 million people packed the streets of the city's North Side for the first gay pride parade since Illinois legalized gay marriage last month.

Charlie Gurion, who with David Wilk in February became the first couple in Cook County to get a same-sex marriage license, said there was a different feel to the parade this year.



SETH WENIG/AP

A woman carrying a snake participates in the gay pride parade in New York on Sunday.

"I think there is definitely like an even more sense of pride now knowing that in Illinois you can legally get married now," Gurion said, as he posed for photograph after photograph with Wilk at the parade. "I think it is a huge thing, and everybody's over the moon that they can do it now."

In San Francisco, hundreds of motorcyclists of the lesbian group Dykes on Bikes took their traditional spot at the head of the 44th annual parade and loudly kicked off the festivities with a combined roar. Apple Inc. had one of the largest corporate presences, and CEO Tim Cook greeted the estimated 4,000 employees and family members who participated. The parade drew more than 100,000 spectators and participants.

U.S. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee and assorted state and local politicians rolled down Market Street along with gay city police officers holding hands with their

significant others as their children skipped ahead.

For some veterans of the San Francisco parade, the event has lost some its edge as it gains mainstream acceptance.

"There's less partying," said Larry Pettit, who said he attended the first parade more than four decades ago. "There's less sex. Everyone's interested in politics and no one is having sex."

In Seattle, thousands of people gathered downtown for the city's 40th annual Pride Parade. This year's theme — "Generations of Pride," honors civil rights battles in the city that elected its first openly gay mayor last November.

Actor George Takei, who played in the "Star Trek" TV show and in movies and is now an activist for gay and civil rights, was celebrity grand marshal of the Seattle parade.

Washington's 'bumpy road' for legal pot

By GENE JOHNSON
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Pete O'Neil saw Washington's legalization of marijuana in 2012 as a path to retirement, or at least to his kids' college tuition.

He's paid tens of thousands of dollars in rent on possible locations for a pot shop chain, hired lawyers and picked out flooring. But now the nation's second legal recreational marijuana industry is about to start without him.

O'Neil struck out in Washington's lottery for coveted pot shop licenses. He has unsuccessfully tried to buy companies that scored a lucky number. In frustration, he's turning what would have been his Seattle retail store into a medical marijuana dispensary.

"Our company is bleeding money, and I haven't sold a single joint," O'Neil said.

As Washington plows toward the legal pot promised land, it's finding that getting the cannabis market off the ground has been even tougher than anyone imagined.

‘Our company is bleeding money, and I haven’t sold a single joint.’

Pete O'Neil
Washington
businessman

are growers who have been waiting months for permission to start raising their bar-coded plants; advocates who wish more public health messaging had been done by now; and would-be pot vendors like O'Neil who say bad luck, minor oversights on their applications or errors by state officials have torpedoed otherwise promising efforts.

Washington's Liquor Control Board expects to issue the first 15 to 20 marijuana retail licenses July 7, months later than first expected, but it's not clear how many of those shops are ready to open. Board staff said last week that only one shop in Seattle is prepared for its final inspection.

Randy Simmons, the board's legal pot project manager, predicts "a bumpy road," with an initial shortage of stores and marijuana alike. Many businesses that got lucky in the pot shop lottery in April have since been disqualified for reasons such as being too close to schools or playgrounds. Others haven't finished building or reached deals to buy pot from licensed growers.

"This is a gold-rush mentality, and everybody wants to get rich," Simmons said. "Some people just don't have an idea what they're doing — no clue at all. It slows down the process."

Pot shortages are certain. More than 2,600 people applied last fall to grow marijuana, but those applications are being reviewed glacially by the board's 18 swamped licensing investigators. Only about 80 growers have been approved, and some won't harvest by early July. Hundreds of applicants haven't even been assigned an investigator.

Prices could run more than \$25 a gram for bud, but that's based on pot — not twice what the state's unregulated medical dispensaries charge — until more growers are licensed, Simmons said.

There will be no edibles available. People who want to make brownies, cookies or other pot-infused treats must have their kitchens inspected by the state. Of the two tested so far, one failed — it didn't even have a hand-washing sink. The report on the other hasn't been completed.

NASA launching 2nd global warming satellite

By ALICIA CHANG
The Associated Press

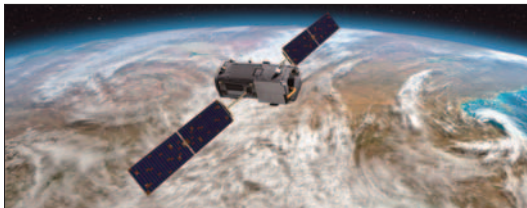
LOS ANGELES — Five years after a NASA satellite to track carbon dioxide plunged into the ocean after liftoff, the space agency is launching a carbon copy — this time on a different rocket.

The \$468 million mission is designed to study the main driver of climate change emitted from smokestacks and tailpipes. Some of the carbon dioxide is sucked up by trees and oceans, and the rest is lofted into the atmosphere, trapping the sun's heat and warming the planet.

But atmospheric CO₂ levels fluctuate with the seasons and in different regions of the Earth. The natural and human activities that cause the changes are complicated. The Orbiting Carbon Observatory-2, or OCO-2 for short, will be able to take an ultradetailed look at most of the Earth's surface to identify places responsible for producing or absorbing the greenhouse gas.

"This will allow us to understand what processes are controlling how much carbon is absorbed in a given time and place," Anna Michalak, a scientist at the Carnegie Institution for Science who is not part of the mission, said in an email.

The mission, designed to last two years, could provide data that will help scientists making predictions about future carbon



NASA, JPL-CALTECH/AP

This artist's rendering shows the Orbiting Carbon Observatory-2, which is managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif.

dioxide levels and their impact.

NASA suffered a major scientific — and financial — disaster in 2009 when a rocket carrying the original satellite plummeted into the waters off Antarctica minutes after soaring from Vandenberg Air Force Base along the central California coast.

After the loss, engineers went back to the drawing board and built a near-identical twin that is set to launch before dawn Tuesday.

Instead of using the same rocket, the replacement will be flown on a Delta 2, a workhorse booster that once faced a murky future.

Scientists who have no role in the mission welcomed the latest flight attempt. They said it would have taken even longer to get to the launch pad with a completely new design.

"We don't have time to waste. We need solutions now," said Elisabeth Holland, a professor of climate change at the University of South Pacific in Fiji who helped write the 2007 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report.

There has not been an Earth-observing satellite dedicated to tracking carbon dioxide since the Japanese launched one in 2009.

SHIFTING GEARS

8 reasons endurance racing still matters

By JASON H. HARPER
Bloomberg News

I love cars, though I don't like to watch racing on TV. It often seems a bit, well, slow.

Yet I've always wanted to go to France's annual 24 Hours of Le Mans, considered the most difficult and important race in all of motor sports.

Blame Steve McQueen's preternatural coolness in the 1971 film "Le Mans." Or hearing champions such as Hurley Haywood and Derek Bell talk about tearing down the Mulsanne Straight at more than 200 miles an hour, at night, in the rain. When men were men, indeed.

So this year I took advantage of always being in Europe and went to the 82nd running of Le Mans. It was an extra-special event, with Porsche returning after 16 years, Audi looking for its 13th victory in 16 years and Toyota quietly favored to win.

After all the dust — and wreckage — had cleared, Audi had taken first and second place in the top-tier LMP1 prototype category; Toyota was third and Porsche's cars didn't quite finish. The end was swamped numerous times, and the win wasn't decided until the final hours.

For me, it crystallized why an endurance race that started in 1923 is relevant today — to the carmakers, sports fans and even somewhat disinterested motorists like myself. Here are eight reasons why Le Mans still matters, and why any car lover simply must someday go themselves.

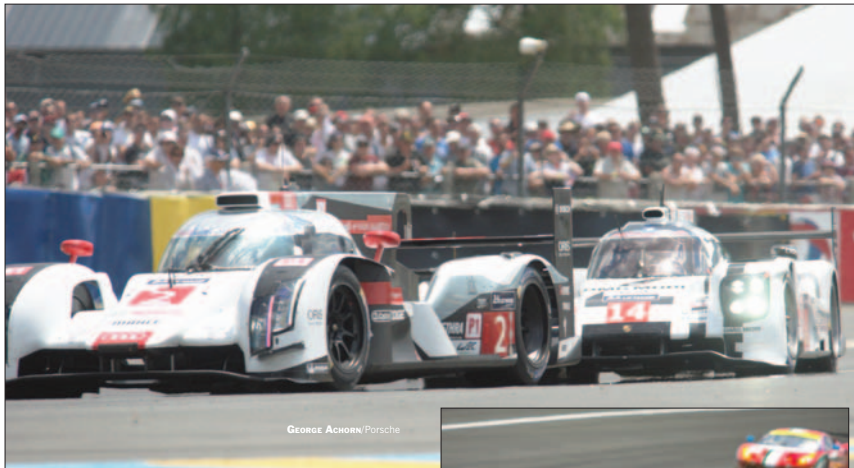
1 The technology trickle-down. In an ideal world, the hundreds of millions spent on racing technology would filter down to the cars that you and I drive. Those benefits are less obvious in series like Formula One, which has limited real-world crossover.

Yet while the Le Mans prototypes from Audi, Toyota and Porsche look like starship fighters, they use loads of real-world technology such as traction control and all-wheel-drive that aren't allowed in F1.

One small example is headlights. The course is only partially lit at night, so the efficacy of the cars' headlights is paramount. Audi was an early innovator of LED lights in production cars, and in 2011 Audi's race car used full LED lights. This year the new car, called the R18 E-tron, was supplemented with laser lights.

"The new lights make a shocking difference in the ability to see at night," Allan McNish, a retired, three-time Le Mans winner, told me. "It's a safety issue, really."

2 Efficiency actually made exciting. All three companies' prototype cars are hybrids, and it's a lot easier to get excited about green initiatives when the products accelerate past 200 mph. New race rules mandated a 30 percent reduction in energy used per lap,



GEORGE ACHORN/Porsche

Above: The Audi R18 E-tron, front, mixes it up with the Porsche 919 Hybrid. Audi would go on to win its 13th Le Mans championship, dashing Porsche's dreams of a triumphant return to the 24-hour race. **Right:** Chevy Racing fielded two Corvettes at Circuit de la Sarthe in Le Mans, France.

which pushed Audi, Porsche and Toyota to innovative solutions.

Sports car companies like Porsche are under very real pressure to conform to coming emission mandates, so the technology in the 919 Hybrid isn't an empty exercise. It is in some ways similar to Porsche's new production supercar, the 918 Spyder, which uses regenerative braking to recharge lithium-ion batteries. Incredibly, the consumer car has a V-8 while the 919 Hybrid uses only a 2.0-liter turbo V-4.

Audi has long used the efficiency of diesel to its advantage, translating to fewer fueling stops. Yet new rules meant the company had to start from scratch. The R18 has a V-6 turbo-diesel powering the rear wheels, while the front tires are powered in short bursts from energy recaptured from braking. The winning No. 2 car turned an incredible 379 laps in all, pitting 29 times.

Toyota is known for efficiency but not speed. The lessons from the Le Mans will filter to future sports cars. The two TS040 Hybrid models were crazily fast, looked great and sounded fabulous.

3 Incredible safety. Prototype race cars don't have air bags and rely instead on a monocoque, which is essentially a safety cell where the driver sits, with the rest of the car built around it. They are incredibly strong. We are finally seeing this design in high-end road cars like the McLaren 12C and LaFerrari. (Those have air bags.)

An Audi R18 had a dreadful crash during qualifying, slamming into a wall. Yet the driver,

Loic Duval, walked away with only a couple of scrapes. Incredible.

4 Real cars do extraordinary things. Hey, isn't that a Corvette flying by? Indeed, two yellow entrants were unmistakably Chevrolets. The GTE classes are race cars based on existing road cars, including the C7 Corvette, Ferrari 458 and Aston Martin Vantage.

5 The sounds and the fury. TV will never be able to adequately convey the blasts of incredible sound. (Earplugs are a must.) Each type of car has its own brand of noise. The Toyotas hurt your eardrums as they blast by. The Corvettes, a fan favorite, sound the best, with a low-end V-8 bass that reverberates through your chest as if your sternum were a tuning fork. The Audi R18 is eerily quiet as it rockets through the track.

6 The course. To understand the difficulty of this race, you have to understand the rigors of the Circuit de la Sarthe, which is more than 8 miles long. While some of it is a specially built racetrack, the rest is a two-lane public road, closed off for the race.

I toured the track between qualifying sessions and was amazed at the reality of the Mulsanne Straight. It really is a narrow country road, with a slight crown in the middle, metal barriers on either side, and homes and businesses a short distance away. The corner at its terminus is ridiculously sharp and narrow. You'd have to have nerves of titanium to drive this at 200 mph in the dark, hour after hour.



7 The fans and the brands. Audi at Le Mans is a bit like baseball's Yankees, winning with such hard-swinging consistency that it can come off as rather smug. Smaller teams are like a minor-league farm system, grooming crews and drivers. Yet wander around the pits and it's obvious that the crews and engineers, from Audi on down, live for this race. They aren't just working a day job.

As for the 263,000 fans, the majority wear T-shirts emblazoned with a car or racing brand and many waved Audi or Porsche flags.

At the race's end, the crews ran to the pit wall to watch the ultimate parade lap. Audi flags unfurled triumphantly as the two R18s passed side by side. The two Corvettes did burn-outs as the crowd roared. It was as spectacular a moment as I've ever experienced in any sport.

8 Speed. Because I do love fast cars. And I've never seen anything like Le Mans, where a very fast Porsche 911 is passed by an Audi R18 as if it weren't even moving. And where you can stand some 40 feet away from that as it happens.

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Teen OK after fall from mall's 2nd-floor balcony

MIN MINNEAPOLIS — Bloomington police said a teen who fell from a Mall of America second-floor balcony while attempting a handstand suffered only minor injuries.

Deputy Police Chief Rick Hart said witnesses saw the 17-year-old attempting a handstand on the upper-level balcony Saturday afternoon when he lost his balance and fell.

He was taken to a hospital, but mall spokesman Dan Jasper said he seems to have escaped serious injury.

Hart said he doesn't think the teen will be cited, although he suspects the boy learned a painful lesson. He said the boy's acrobatic attempt "probably wasn't his smartest move."

Rocket misfire puts record pursuit on hold

AZ WINKLEMAN — A California man is going back to the drawing board after his steam-powered rocket misfired in the Arizona desert during his latest effort to set a record.

Mike Hughes was scheduled to blast off Saturday from a remote area near Winkelman. He said the X-2 Skylimo Rocket launched prematurely when some seals gave way.

Without Hughes in the cockpit, the parachutes failed to deploy. The rocket ended up in a crumpled mess about a half-mile away.

Hughes said he's devastated but promised to rebuild the rocket for another launch in British Columbia in late August.

He had hoped to travel some 1,700 feet Saturday. He made a similar flight in January that he said went 1,374 feet.

Hughes holds the Guinness World Records mark for the longest limo jump at 103 feet, set Sept. 28, 2002.

Police: Vandal doesn't like air conditioners

WI APPLETON — An Appleton man told police he vandalized a string of air conditioners in the Fox Cities of northeastern Wisconsin because he doesn't like the machines.

"Different things ... set people off, and in this case, it appears that the air-conditioning units were bothering him," Sgt. David Lund said.

The vandalism began last week in Menasha. Lund said Appleton police have received at least 12 reports of broken air conditioners. Neenah and Grand Chute have reports as well.

Lunde said the targets have included residences, a dentist's office and gas station.

Lund said the 52-year-old suspect spent nights riding his bicycle around and ripping control switches out of the units.

Investigators think there may be more victims, and they're trying to compile a complete list before referring charges to the district attorney's office. They're reaching out to local heating and air-conditioning companies to see if anyone else has been vic-

THE CENSUS

8 The percentage of decrease in the size of salamanders in the Appalachian Mountains found in a new study, which some scientists suggest could be another sign of climate change. The researchers from Clemson University, the universities of Maryland and Alabama and Iowa State think that in a drier, warmer climate, the little creatures, a key food for animals in the cool, dark forests where they live, use more energy to stay alive.



MADDIE MEYER, THE SEATTLE TIMES/AP

Tossing treasure

The Seafair Pirates storm Alki Beach, tossing coins on their way to see the mayor during the Seafair Pirates Landing on Saturday as part of the annual Seafair Festival in Seattle.

timized and not reported it.

Mountain lion captured at shopping center dies

UT SANDY — A mountain lion that was shot with tranquilizer darts and captured outside a shopping center in suburban Salt Lake City has died, Utah wildlife officials said Saturday.

The 100-pound cat never regained consciousness from the effects of the tranquilizers after it was shot Friday near Jordan Commons in Sandy. Scott Root, of the Department of Wildlife Resources, said. It is unusual for wildlife to die under sedation but not unheard of, he said. The animal died late Friday night.

Police said the mountain lion didn't hurt anybody but had startled people when it was spotted walking across a street toward the shopping center about 8 a.m.

12,600-year-old remains of boy reburied

MT WILSALL — The 12,600-year-old remains of an infant boy were reburied Saturday in a Native American ceremony in the U.S. after scientists recovered DNA from the child discovered in Mon-

tana in 1968.

The boy's remains were put back as close as possible to the original burial site. Two film crews, about 30 American Indian tribal representatives and others attended the ceremony, The Billings Gazette reported.

The DNA taken from the boy provided new indications of the ancient roots of today's American Indians and other native people of the Americas. It was the oldest genome ever recovered from the New World and proved he was closely related to indigenous Americans.

The boy was between 1 and 1½ years old when he died of an unknown cause. Artifacts found with the body show the boy was part of the Clovis culture, which existed in North America from about 13,000 years ago to about 12,600 years ago.

The DNA also indicates the boy's ancestors came from Asia, supporting the standard idea of ancient migration to the Americas by way of a land bridge that disappeared long ago.

Glove requirement for chefs repealed

CA SACRAMENTO — The gloves are coming off in California kitchens.

Gov. Jerry Brown announced Saturday that he's signed a measure repealing a state law that required restaurant employees to use gloves or utensils to handle food going straight to diners' plates.

The no-hands bill was passed last year and would have taken effect on July 1. It was intended to prevent disease transmission and covered everything from sushi rice to the mint in a mojito.

Forty-one other states have similar prohibitions and the California law drew no opposition from chain restaurants.

But some independent chefs and bartenders complained that it would restrict their hands-on craft, would disrupt hand-washing routines and would generate unnecessary waste of disposable gloves.

80 mph speed limit starts on interstates

WY CHEYENNE — Motorists traveling in Wyoming will soon be able to go a little faster on certain stretches of interstate highways.

On Tuesday, Wyoming Department of Transportation crews will begin changing speed limit signs along three sections of Interstates 25, 80 and 90 to 80 mph.

The higher speed limit will not be the entire lengths of the highways, but only in areas where WYDOT has deemed it safe.

The 80 mph limit will be posted along a total of 268 miles of I-25, 116 miles on I-80 and 104 miles of I-90.

Teacher who dragged student can keep job

NE NORTH PLATTE — A North Platte physical education teacher who dragged an 8-year-old student by his ankles can keep his job.

The North Platte Public Schools Board decided late Friday not to terminate the contract of Mark Woodhead, a longtime teacher and coach at Jefferson Elementary School. The 4-2 vote came at the end of 15 hours of public testimony and deliberation, and was cheered by a large crowd.

Witnesses said the third-grader was misbehaving in Woodhead's physical education class on Feb. 13. The student left the class and went to an office. Woodhead followed the boy and dragged him back to a timeout room, a distance of about 90 feet. The child's guardian testified that the boy suffered rug burns on his back.

From wire reports

FACES

'Transformers' TRIUMPH



Paramount Pictures

"Transformers: Age of Extinction" loomed over the box-office competition in its first weekend in release. The rebooted franchise, starring Mark Wahlberg, made an estimated \$100 million in North America, making it the biggest debut in 2014.

'Age of Extinction' first movie to debut with \$100M in 2014

The Associated Press

"Transformers: Age of Extinction" is ruling the box office.

The fourth installment in filmmaker Michael Bay's morphing robots series earned \$100 million in North America during its opening weekend, making it the biggest debut for a movie this year, according to studio estimates Sunday. The blockbuster outperformed "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," \$95 million from April. "Age of Extinction" also earned \$201.3 million from 37 international territories, including \$90 million in China, where it was partially filmed and co-produced.

"Age of Extinction" stars Mark Wahlberg and Nicola Peltz as a human father-daughter duo who aid the shape-shifting robots from the Hasbro toy franchise.

"I think putting Mark Wahlberg front and center accomplished what we wanted to do, and that's re-energize the franchise," Paramount vice chairman Rob Moore said. The first three "Transformers" films starred Shia LaBeouf.

"22 Jump Street" finished in second place with \$15.4 million; "How To Train Your Dragon 2" was in third place with \$13.1 million; and "Think Like a Man Too" came in fourth place with \$10.4 million.

Jokes, confessions spice BET Awards

By SANDY COHEN
The Associated Press

After nearly four hours of prizes, performances and the occasional bleeped expletive, the 2014 BET Awards came to a close. When it was all over, Pharrell Williams had two trophies, as did newcomer August Alsina, and Lil Wayne dropped the mike, apparently breaking it.

Here's a look at some memorable moments that emerged from Sunday night's ceremony, which took place at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles:

■ Accepting her fifth consecutive award for best female hip-hop artist, Nicki Minaj gave a rambling speech in which she said she was recently near death.

"The other day, literally I didn't tell anybody this. I really thought I was about to die. Like, I was saying my prayers to die. And I didn't even want to call the ambulance because I thought, 'Well if I call the ambulance, it's going to be on TMZ,'" Minaj said, as some of the audience laughed.

"And I would rather sit there and die," she added, looking to the crowd. "And it made me realize I don't care what anybody got to say. I'm going to do me."

■ Chris Rock proved a winning host, opening the show with barbs aimed at Donald Sterling and heavyset rapper Rick Ross, sneaking clever swipes into his artist introductions and passing out food from Roscoe's House of Chicken and Waffles to hungry audience members.

■ Maybe Pharrell Williams should have been seated just off stage. The multitasking entertainer opened the evening with a playful performance of "Come Get It Bae," backed by a flurry of cheerleaders. Reclusive rapper Missy Elliott also joined in. He was back on stage twice to accept awards — video of the year for "Happy" and best male R&B/pop artist — and returned a fourth time to introduce lifetime achievement award winner Lionel Richie.

■ Richie's lifetime achievement award was celebrated with music. The 65-year-old singer-songwriter performed two of his classic hits: the Commodores' "Easy" and his '80s party anthem "All Night Long (All Night)," before being feted by



CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP

Nicki Minaj shares a tale of a recent near-death experience as she accepts her fifth consecutive award for best female hip-hop artist at the BET Awards on June 29 in Los Angeles.

other artists. John Legend crooned Richie's love song "Hello" from the piano, a song he said he's been performing since high school. Ledisi rocked an enthusiastic version of "Brick House." And gospel singer Yolanda Adams brought the house down with her moving rendition of "Jesus Is Love."

Backstage, Richie called the honor "magical." "If you are lucky enough in this business to have years of songs, as opposed to a couple of songs, (it's) something to be proud of," he said.

■ Rising stars Alsina and Jhene Aiko shined brightly. Alsina was moved to tears as he accepted the first award of the night, best new artist. "I represent the struggle," the New Orleans newcomer said onstage. "This award is not for me, it's for the people."

Alsina returned to accept the fan-voted viewers' choice award, where he beat Beyonce and Drake, saying, "I ain't gonna cry this time!"

Aiko performed with John Legend, singing "The Worst" as he played piano.

■ The night's leading nominees, Drake, Beyonce and Jay-Z, were all no-shows. Each had five nominations. Drake was named best male hip-hop artist. Beyonce won female R&B/pop artist. Her hit with Jay Z, "Drunk In Love," won best collaboration.

Earlier in the evening, one person was killed and five were injured in two separate incidents at parties ahead of the BET Awards that were not officially connected to the ceremony, Los Angeles police said Sunday.

Zendaya bows out of Aaliyah TV role

The Associated Press

Dust yourself off and try again, Lifetime Network: Zendaya will no longer play Aaliyah in an upcoming film.

The 17-year-old Disney Channel star said Sunday that she pulled out of the project because "production-wise, (it) wasn't all the way there."

"Because it's someone that I honor and I respect so much, it has to be 128 percent, especially for all her fans, including myself," Zendaya said. "I didn't feel like it was all the way there, so I didn't want to do that. And when the time comes when it's done right and it's 100 percent, by all means, I will be the first person there ready to go."

Lifetime announced Zendaya's participation two weeks ago. The announcement sparked anger from Aaliyah's family, who are not participating in the project.

The network tweeted Sunday: "We are sad Zendaya will no longer portray Aaliyah. Production is currently on hold."

The biopic was scheduled to film this summer.

R&B singer-songwriter Bobby Womack dies

Bobby Womack, a colorful and highly influential R&B singer-songwriter who influenced artists from the Rolling Stones to Damon Albarn, has died. He was 70.

Womack was a stirring singer and guitarist in his own right and

a powerful songwriter whose hits like "Across 110th Street," "If You Think You're Lonely Now" and "I Wish He Didn't Trust Me So Much" captured the imagination of future stars in rock 'n' roll and R&B.

Other news

■ A book importer in China said Monday it scrapped plans to distribute Hillary Clinton's memoir "Hard Choices," which talks about Chinese censorship and a dissident who took refuge in the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, due to sensitive content.

■ Rapper Rick Ross has been released after his arrest following a North Carolina concert June 27. Greensboro Police Department spokeswoman Susan Danielsen says a court had issued an order for his arrest because he failed to appear in court on a previous misdemeanor marijuana charge.

■ A judge has dismissed actress Amanda Bynes' New York City bow-tossing case. Bynes' lawyer appeared in court Monday. The actress was not present. The judge had previously said the charges would be dismissed if Bynes stayed out of trouble for six months and went to counseling twice a week.

■ Meshach Taylor, who played a lovable ex-convict surrounded by boisterous Southern belles on the sitcom "Designing Women" and appeared in numerous other TV and film roles, died of cancer at age 67, his agent said Sunday.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Business interests losing pull with GOP

BY ERICA WERNER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Traditional ties between the business community and the Republican Party are fraying on Capitol Hill, where the House GOP has bucked corporate interests on a series of priorities this year, from immigration to highway funding to trade.

Rebuffed in Congress, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other business groups have found more success backing pro-business candidates for election, but even they don't always deliver.

It adds up to a significant shift in how the GOP operates, ushered in by the rise of the tea party movement and its distrust of the federal government and of big corporate America.

Whether the business community's success this year in electing its favored candidates in primaries can swing the pendulum back its way remains to be seen. That is

amid plentiful evidence that the Chamber of Commerce and other business groups are struggling to get a hearing from congressional conservatives who outright reject their goals and are having outsized influence on House leaders and legislation.

"I think it's the Chamber that's drifted away from conservative pro-business values, not Republicans," said Rep. John Fleming, R-La., a conservative who said that the Chamber of Commerce and other business groups may speak for corporate America, but they don't speak for him. "I think that the Chamber has been moving away from its traditional roles and that is to protect small businesses. I don't know why."

Last week the divide played out in the debate over whether to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank, a government agency that makes and guarantees loans to help U.S. exporters sell their products. It's a priority for the

business community, but conservatives have seized on it as the latest example of corporate welfare, with conservative groups like the Heritage Foundation urging lawmakers to stand opposed.

It's certainly a minor matter to most voters, and some more establishment-aligned Republicans marveled that it's become an issue at all.

"I never thought in my wildest dreams that the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank could become a defining issue for Republicans," said Rep. Charlie Dent R-Pa.

Yet the conservative opposition has been such that the newly elected House majority leader, Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., reversed himself and announced his opposition to the bank, and Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, a supporter in the past and a leading business ally, elected to remain neutral in this go-round.

As with last year's government

shutdown, it's an issue where conservative Republicans swatted away the desires of business leaders and their GOP allies, in the process delighting Republican base voters and possibly turning off moderates.

"The Chamber was kind of like the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval, but since 2007, 2008 I think that's changed," said John Feehery, a Republican consultant who worked for former House Speaker Dennis Hastert. "Some people see it as a negative, they see it as being suspect. And that's a sea change really."

It's a shift Republican activists celebrate.

"It seems like K Street has had an upper hand at the GOP table, and I think that's changing with the decentralization of politics that gives activists a bigger voice in the legislative process," said Matt Kibbe, head of FreedomWorks, an advocacy group affiliated with the tea party.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (July 1)	\$1.3978
British pound (July 1)	\$1.6461
Japanese yen (July 1)	\$1.9500
Swiss franc (July 1)	\$1.4110
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	\$3.7603
British pound	\$1.0753
Canada (Dollar)	1.0648
Denmark (Krone)	\$6.5461
Egypt (Pound)	\$1.3137
Euro	\$1.3666
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7506
Hungary (Forint)	\$2.0037
Israel (Shekel)	10.4332
Japan (Yen)	143.41
Kuwait (Dinar)	\$2.2815
Norway (Krone)	4.6469
Philippines (Peso)	41.637
Poland (Zloty)	\$2.4000
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	\$2.4666
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2500
South Korea (Won)	1,072.14
Switzerland (Franc)	2.0281
Taiwan (Dollar)	2.2824
Turkey (Lira)	8.1122

(Military exchange rates are those of the U.S. Department of Defense. Commercial exchange rates are those of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.)

check with your local military banking office. Exchange rates are in U.S. dollars, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the Japanese yen, which is represented in dollars-to-yen.

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.10
3-month bill	0.02
30-year bond	3.37

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Tuesday's US temperatures

Albany, Tex.	55	73	PCity	Cheney	69	47	PCity	Fresno	107	70	PCity	Lubbock	90	65	PCity	Portland, Maine	84	67	PCity	Sioux Falls	69	49	Rain
Albany, N.Y.	67	72	PCity	Cincinnati	69	69	PCity	Grand Rapids	89	59	PCity	Madison	77	58	PCity	Poughkeepsie	86	70	PCity	Spokane	88	61	CI
Albuquerque	91	67	CI	Cleveland	88	68	CI	Grand Rapids	82	63	PCity	Medford	103	65	PCity	Pueblo	79	58	CI	Springfield, Ill.	85	63	PCity
Albany, Ga.	61	68	PCity	Greensboro, N.C.	74	63	PCity	Harrisburg	89	69	PCity	Memphis	88	65	PCity	Portland, Me.	83	64	PCity	Springfield, Mo.	83	61	PCity
Amarillo	65	61	Rain	Columbia, S.C.	94	73	PCity	Green Bay	77	57	CI	Miami Beach	88	77	Rain	Rapid City	69	50	CI	Syracuse	92	71	Rain
Anchorage	60	51	Rain	Columbus, Ga.	94	76	PCity	Greensboro, N.C.	92	71	PCity	Midland-Oleessa	97	70	Rain	Reyno	102	65	PCity	Tallahassee	96	75	PCity
Anchorage	60	51	Rain	Columbus, Ga.	94	76	PCity	Harrisburg	89	69	PCity	Midland-Oleessa	97	70	Rain	Reyno	102	65	PCity	Tallahassee	96	75	PCity
Atlanta	92	76	PCity	Concord, N.H.	91	68	CI	Hartford Spgld	90	71	PCity	Mpls-St Paul	70	55	Rain	Rochester	91	72	CI	Toledo	87	66	CI
Austin	94	75	PCity	Dallas-Ft Worth	94	76	PCity	Honolulu	86	74	PCity	Mobile	96	74	PCity	Rockford	81	61	PCity	Topeka	84	62	PCity
Baltimore	90	73	CI	Dayton	90	69	CI	Houston	87	73	PCity	Montgomery	97	74	PCity	Sacramento	95	60	CI	Tulsa	90	69	CI
Baltimore	90	73	CI	Dayton	90	69	CI	Houston	87	73	PCity	Montgomery	97	74	PCity	Sacramento	95	60	CI	Tulsa	90	69	CI
Billings	77	54	PCity	Denver	75	54	CI	Indianapolis	87	67	PCity	New Orleans	93	77	PCity	St Petersburg	91	80	CI	Tupelo	93	75	PCity
Birmingham	95	73	PCity	Des Moines	79	58	PCity	Jackson, Miss.	95	73	PCity	New York City	82	72	CI	St Thomas	90	81	PCity	Washington	93	76	CI
Birmingham	95	73	PCity	Des Moines	79	58	PCity	Jackson, Miss.	95	73	PCity	New York City	82	72	CI	St Thomas	90	81	PCity	Washington	93	76	CI
Boston	89	71	PCity	El Paso	102	78	CI	Key West	84	60	CI	Norfolk, Va.	89	74	PCity	Salt Lake City	87	62	CI	W. Palm Beach	87	76	Rain
Boston	89	71	PCity	El Paso	102	78	CI	Key West	84	60	CI	Norfolk, Va.	89	74	PCity	Salt Lake City	87	62	CI	W. Palm Beach	87	76	Rain
Brownsville	94	78	PCity	El Paso	102	78	CI	Key West	84	60	CI	Norfolk, Va.	89	74	PCity	Salt Lake City	87	62	CI	W. Palm Beach	87	76	Rain
Brownsville	94	78	PCity	El Paso	102	78	CI	Key West	84	60	CI	Norfolk, Va.	89	74	PCity	Salt Lake City	87	62	CI	W. Palm Beach	87	76	Rain
Burlington, Vt.	90	68	PCity	Evansville	91	70	PCity	Lansing	83	63	CI	Pasadena	92	71	PCity	San Jose	83	58	CI	Yakima	92	65	CI
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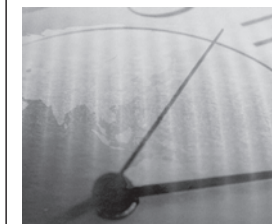
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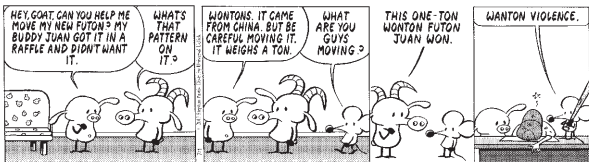
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Dilbert



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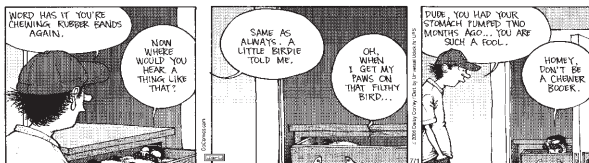
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Candorville



Get Fuzzy



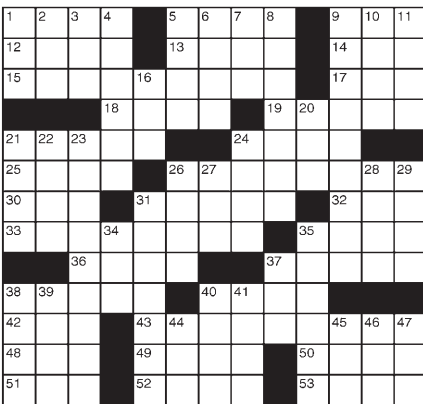
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- Did some weeding
- "Shoo!"
- Hem and — for one
- Concept
- Contented sound
- Japanese sash
- Fibs
- Play on words
- Genie's home
- Encounters
- Make diet-friendly
- Joint inflammation
- "Handsome — ..."
- Small songbirds
- "Platoon" site, for short
- Sends via USPS
- Rotation duration
- Leadership
- Disencumbers
- Parliamentarian
- Visitor
- Grant's successor
- Put into words
- PC key
- "Dessert" for the apologetic
- Marseilles monarch
- Chills and fever
- Couch
- Ruby or Sandra
- Oodles
- Rip

DOWN

- Smack
- Praise in verse
- Conger, 29 Method (Abbr.)
- Southfork's city
- Unwanted email
- Robert of "I Spy"
- "Exodus" hero
- Quakes
- "Cross my heart" partner
- Touch
- Victories
- Perched
- One side of the Urals (Abbr.)
- Bell sound
- Birthing
- Connection via kin
- Big wind
- Beach stuff
- Snapshot
- Bankrolls
- Sheriff
- Fawn's mama
- Least courteous
- Hodges of baseball
- Tough
- Lotion additive
- Lewd material
- Lincoln and Vigoda
- Playwright Betty
- "The Raven" writer
- "— picture paints ..."
- Listener

Answer to Previous Puzzle



7-1

CRYPTOQUIP

BGV M KEZGF MVQ ZEM'N DV
QNUHHVC NVKHUSESFWR EMC
NGVM SVQXKVC, F BUXWC
QER NGVR'SV FK-HEXQFDVV.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: TWO CONS WHO HAD ESCAPED PRISON DECIDED TO STAY AT A MOTEL. YOU COULD SAY THEY WERE INN-MATES.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: V equals E

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148	148	148	148	148	148	148	570
<p>Dae Woo, Mjetz, 2008 \$3750.00. Reliability only 4 years old. Easy to Park, Maneuver, (Fuel - Great Gas Mileage) (1x 253 rare parts almost a month of off-post commuting and errands)</p> <p>Other Features: Steel Warner AC and Heat, three-seat Ford's to accommodate bikes and luggage, cruise, Automatic Doors and Windows, Nice Stereo, easy to maintain faux leather interior. 82-010-9131-9049</p> <p>☐</p>	<p>Dodge, Dart, 2013 \$11500.00. Brand New vehicle, purchased this vehicle for my 16 year old daughter. Paid 2000. Blue. Book value is \$14,800. Long Story but the vehicle is no longer going to 16 year old daughter. Need to sell it, willing to take a significant loss on the vehicle. Will sell at \$11,500 = \$3,500 value. Very Clean, Reliable, Dependable, Great Vehicle for a small family. Call or text me at 01031641301 so we can get something up. I can send you photos or can come to your location. 01031641301 james.meneley@us.army.mil</p> <p>☐</p>	<p>Ford, E350LT, Super Duty Conversion VAN, Passenger, Like Brand New, V-8, 4.0L All-Weather, Deluxe Wood Interior, Power Locks, Windows, Mirror Captain's Chairs, Dual Front & Rear AC & Heat 19" Rear LCD TV with DVD player JVC Stereo w/ Bluetooth, PH and iPod docking 3D Navi with traffic condition, Rear view camera w/ backup sensors, HD, BlackBox Wireless Headsets, PS2 Game console, Philips LED UHF. This row seat can be a bad bad Can drive on highway BUS line. So in Chrome Wheels, \$19,000. O.R.D. 010-924-8332 010-924-8332</p> <p>☐</p>	<p>Ford, Mustang, GT, 2013 \$25000.00 \$35,300 PCS credit into price. Best must sell or ship! 2013 Mustang, GT, 6 speed manual, Truck Pack high performance Brembo brake system, upgraded radiator & oil cooler, 19" rims, electronic stability control, forest rear end, Heco racing seats, Ford SYNC, Bluetooth, LOW MILE. Made 11,000mi, very nice and beautiful. XBS: \$23,000. 010-895-6102 cjkuyk@hotmail.com cjkuyk@hotmail.com</p> <p>☐</p>	<p>Ford, Thunderbird, LX, 1994 \$1200.00 1994 Ford Thunderbird LX All original 42,000 miles 4.6 Liter V-8 Automatic Power windows and locks New tires New starter New brake pads Alloy rims Cold AC Keyless entry Runs and Drives Great No rust \$1,600 or best offer 010-2027-7059 010-2027-7059</p> <p>☐</p>	<p>Jeep, Grand Cherokee, Limited, 2008 \$18000.00. Have a 2008 Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited with the 5.7L HEMI engine with 71,000 miles. Selling for \$18,000 and willing to consider repeatable offers. Fully loaded including DVD system, head-drones and remote. Also has the MyGig stereo with 20GB hard drive, navigation, and Boston Acoustics speakers. It also has leather interior, low mileage, power windows, remote start, rear backup camera and rear parking sensors. Also factory installed. Brakes, hoses, filters and oil recently replaced. 01094982008</p> <p>☐</p>	<p>Volvo, XC90, 2013 \$34000.00. In-Charge Platinum Package 3.2 liter AWD. It has everything plus seats for seven. Blue Stocked at \$39,000 and what a deal for only \$34,000 with 8800 miles. Can't wait to take the vehicle with us and a friend. So, please call or text me. 010-3141-9795 or acbsell@gmail.com tom lawrence@gmail.com tanksas20@gmail.com</p> <p>☐</p>	<p>Electric Transformers and accessories \$50 to Electric Transformers 220V to 110V 3 each 1000 watts 3 each 2000 watts \$80.00 for all 8 Korean Extension cords 10 each with multiple outlets \$20.00 for all 10 220V to 110V Plugs 4 Big round ones and 5 small ones \$10.00 for all 9 call Pam 010-3141-9795 010-3141-9795</p>

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Auto racing

Grand Prix of Houston 2

Sunday
Arlington Park
Houston, Texas
(Starting position in parentheses)

1. (3) Simon Pagenaud, Dallara-Honda, 90 laps	1. (3) Simon Pagenaud, Dallara-Honda, 90 laps
2. (2) Mikhail Alekhin, Dallara-Honda, 90 laps	2. (2) Mikhail Alekhin, Dallara-Honda, 90 laps
3. (23) Jack Hawksworth, Dallara-Honda, 90 laps	3. (23) Jack Hawksworth, Dallara-Honda, 90 laps
4. (13) Charlie Kimball, Dallara-Chvrolet, 90 laps	4. (13) Charlie Kimball, Dallara-Chvrolet, 90 laps
5. (2) Sebastian Bourdais, Dallara-Chvrolet, 90 laps	5. (2) Sebastian Bourdais, Dallara-Chvrolet, 90 laps
6. (15) Ryan Hunter-Reay, Dallara-Honda, 90 laps	6. (15) Ryan Hunter-Reay, Dallara-Honda, 90 laps
7. (14) Juan Pablo Montoya, Dallara-Chvrolet, 90 laps	7. (14) Juan Pablo Montoya, Dallara-Chvrolet, 90 laps
8. (15) Ryan Briscoe, Dallara-Chvrolet, 90 laps	8. (15) Ryan Briscoe, Dallara-Chvrolet, 90 laps
9. (6) Marco Andretti, Dallara-Honda, 90 laps	9. (6) Marco Andretti, Dallara-Honda, 90 laps
10. (8) Tony Kanaan, Dallara-Chvrolet, 90 laps	10. (8) Tony Kanaan, Dallara-Chvrolet, 90 laps
11. (10) Will Power, Dallara-Chvrolet, 90 laps	11. (10) Will Power, Dallara-Chvrolet, 90 laps
12. (6) Justin Wilson, Dallara-Chvrolet, 90 laps	12. (6) Justin Wilson, Dallara-Chvrolet, 90 laps
13. (6) Mike Conway, Dallara-Chvrolet, 90 laps	13. (6) Mike Conway, Dallara-Chvrolet, 90 laps
14. (7) James Hinchcliffe, Dallara-Honda, 90 laps	14. (7) James Hinchcliffe, Dallara-Honda, 90 laps
15. (12) Luca Filippi, Dallara-Honda, 90 laps	15. (12) Luca Filippi, Dallara-Honda, 90 laps
16. (4) Graham Rahal, Dallara-Honda, 90 laps	16. (4) Graham Rahal, Dallara-Honda, 90 laps
17. (20) Sebastian Saavedra, Dallara-Chvrolet, 90 laps	17. (20) Sebastian Saavedra, Dallara-Chvrolet, 90 laps
18. (15) Scott Dixon, Dallara-Chvrolet, 90 laps	18. (15) Scott Dixon, Dallara-Chvrolet, 90 laps
19. (2) Takuma Sato, Dallara-Honda, 90 laps	19. (2) Takuma Sato, Dallara-Honda, 90 laps
20. (4) Josef Newgarden, Dallara-Honda, 90 laps	20. (4) Josef Newgarden, Dallara-Honda, 90 laps
21. (1) Helio Castroneves, Dallara-Chvrolet, 90 laps	21. (1) Helio Castroneves, Dallara-Chvrolet, 90 laps
22. (9) Carlos Muñoz, Dallara-Honda, 90 laps	22. (9) Carlos Muñoz, Dallara-Honda, 90 laps
23. (3) Carlos Huertas, Dallara-Honda, 90 laps	23. (3) Carlos Huertas, Dallara-Honda, 90 laps

Race Statistics
Finners average speed: 78.981.
Time of Race: 1:54:02.5.
Margin of Victory: 7.2622 seconds.

Lead Changes: 3 among 2 drivers.
Safety: 28. (1) Tony Kanaan, 3 - Pagenaud 31, Castroneves 32-48, Pagenaud 49-90.
Poles: Power 405, Castroneves 36, Hunter-Reay 34, Pagenaud 36, Montoya 28, Wilson 28, Dixon 23, 35, Filippi 230.

Pro basketball

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	1	7	.125	
Connecticut	8	5	.390	
Indiana	10	3	.750	
Washington	7	7	.500	
Phoenix	6	9	.400	
New York	5	13	.278	

WESTERN CONFERENCE

W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	1	7	.125
Minnesota	12	5	.706
San Antonio	10	7	.588
Los Angeles	6	9	.400
Tulsa	6	9	.400
Seattle	5	10	.333

Saturday's games
Los Angeles 92, Tulsa 89, OT

Sunday's games
New York 67, Connecticut 65
San Antonio at Minnesota
Phoenix 80, Tulsa 77
Seattle 76, Indiana 68

Monday's games
No games scheduled
Tuesday's games
San Antonio at Connecticut
Tulsa at New York
Indiana at Atlanta

Wednesday's games
Chicago at Los Angeles
Phoenix at Washington
Indiana at Phoenix

Thursday's games
Tulsa at Connecticut
San Antonio at Minnesota
Los Angeles at Seattle

Friday's games
No games scheduled
Saturday, July 6
San Antonio at Indiana
Washington at Atlanta
Connecticut at Tulsa
Chicago at Seattle

Pro soccer

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New York Red Bulls	7	5	4	25	24	14
D.C. United	6	6	2	20	22	19
Portland Timbers	7	6	2	23	21	
San Jose Earthquakes	6	5	7	20	17	13
Chicago Fire	6	7	19	24	24	
Columbus Crew	4	5	7	19	18	18
Philadelphia Union	4	5	7	19	18	
Houston Dynamo	5	10	2	17	16	32
Montreal Impact	3	7	5	14	16	26
Chivas USA	4	7	5	14	20	

WESTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle Sounders	7	5	4	25	23	18
Colorado Rapids	6	7	5	23	18	
Real Salt Lake	6	7	5	23	22	22
FC Dallas	6	7	5	23	28	28
Vancouver Whitecaps	5	7	5	22	25	22
Portland Timbers	3	5	20	17	11	28
Portland Timbers	4	5	8	20	28	28
San Jose Earthquakes	4	6	4	16	15	15
Chivas USA	7	5	14	25	20	

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Tuesday's games
Vancouver 0, Montreal 0, tie

Friday's games
New York 2, Toronto FC 2, tie
Sporting Kansas City 1, Portland 0

Saturday's games
Seattle FC 1, D.C. United 0
Philadelphia 3, New England 1
Columbus, FC Dallas

Sunday's games
Colorado 2, Vancouver 0
Los Angeles 1, San Jose 0
New York Red Bulls 1, Real Salt Lake 0

Tuesday's games
Chicago 0, FC Dallas 0, tie
Montreal 3, Houston 0

Wednesday, July 2
Chicago FC at Chicago
Toronto FC at San Jose

Friday, July 4
New York at Houston
Philadelphia at FC Dallas
Columbus at Colorado

Saturday, July 5
New England at Real Salt Lake
Portland at Los Angeles

Sunday, July 6
D.C. United at Toronto FC
Seattle FC at Vancouver
Montreal at Chicago

Sunday, July 6
Chicago at Sporting Kansas City

Impact 3, Dynamo 0

Houston
Montreal 0, 0-0
First half - 1, Montreal, McInerney (Miller), 41st minute.

Seattle
Seattle 1, Portland 0, McInerney (M. Spill), 75th, 3, Montreal, D. Vaio 2, 79th.

Goals: Houston, Tally Hall; Montreal, Tony Perkins.

Yellow Cards: Houston, Houston, 16th; Seattle, Montreal, 22nd; Bruin, Houston, 52nd.

A-16,752 (13,034)

FC Dallas 0, Crew 0

FC Dallas
Columbus 0, 0-0
Goals: FC Dallas, Chris Seitz; Columbus, Steve Clark.

A-4,680 (22,555)

US Cup

QUARTERFINALS
Tuesday, July 8
New England Revolution at Philadelphia Union

Wednesday, July 9
FC Dallas at Carolina RailHawks
Portland Timbers at Seattle Sounders

Chicago Fire at Atlanta Silverbacks

NWSL
Seattle 1, 0-3
FC Kansas City 9, 4-3
Western NY 6, 2-2
Chicago 6, 2-2
San Jose 3, 6-1
Seattle 3, 6-1
Boston 3, 1-0

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Wednesday's games
San Jose FC, Portland 1

Friday's games
Western New York 2, Boston 1

Saturday's games
FC Kansas City 3, Portland 0
Seattle FC 0, San Jose FC, tie

Wednesday, July 2
Seattle FC at Western New York
Houston at San Jose FC
Boston at Washington

Friday, July 4
Chicago at Portland

Saturday, July 5
Western New York 2, Boston 1

Sunday, July 6
FC Kansas City at San Jose FC
Chicago at Seattle FC

Quicken Loans National

Sunday
At Congressional Country Club
Purse: \$5.65 million
Yardage: 7,565 Par 71

X-won on first playoff hole
Shawn Stefani, \$702,000 74-68-70-70-280 -4
C.Hoffman, \$370,000 72-72-68-69-281 -2
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Christopher, \$125,125 67-71-75-74-284 -1
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Gary Woodland, \$16,900 71-71-72-74-290 -6
C. Howell III, \$16,900 71-73-74-74-290 -6
Silver Clack, \$16,900 70-67-71-71-290 -6
Gary Woodland, \$16,900 71-71-72-74-290 -6
Kevin Chappell, \$14,430 71-72-72-72-291 -7
Silver Clack, \$14,430 70-67-71-71-291 -7
J.H. Holmes, \$14,430 72-72-70-71-291 -7
Sean O'Leary, \$14,430 71-73-74-73-291 -7
Geoff Ogilvy, \$14,430 71-71-71-71-291 -7
Ryan Palmer, \$14,430 71-73-70-71-291 -7
Scottie Scheffey, \$14,430 71-71-71-71-291 -7
Patrick Rodgers, \$14,430 71-69-73-76-291 -7
Heath Slocum, \$14,430 71-72-72-75-291 -7
Austin Behn, \$12,500 71-71-71-71-291 -7
K.J. Choi, \$13,520 69-72-75-76-292 -8
L.D. Lee, \$13,520 71-73-71-73-292 -8
Spencer Lee, \$13,520 70-71-71-71-292 -8
Bo Van Der, \$13,520 71-71-78-72-292 -8
James Driscoll, \$13,520 71-71-71-71-292 -8
Kevin Kisner, \$13,065 75-68-78-72-293 -9
Scott Brown, \$12,740 72-74-72-76-294 -10
A. Hoffmann, \$12,740 71-71-71-71-294 -10
Scott Stallings, \$12,740 70-75-68-81-294 -10
Robert Strick, \$12,480 71-71-71-71-293 -11
Tony Sabatini, \$12,320 71-74-77-78-293 -11

Monday's games
Vancouver 0, Montreal 0, tie

Friday's games
New York 2, Toronto FC 2, tie
Sporting Kansas City 1, Portland 0

Saturday's games
Seattle FC 1, D.C. United 0
Philadelphia 3, New England 1
Columbus, FC Dallas

Sunday's games
Colorado 2, Vancouver 0
Los Angeles 1, San Jose 0
New York Red Bulls 1, Real Salt Lake 0

Tuesday's games
Chicago 0, FC Dallas 0, tie
Montreal 3, Houston 0

Wednesday, July 2
Chicago FC at Chicago
Toronto FC at San Jose

Friday, July 4
New York at Houston
Philadelphia at FC Dallas
Columbus at Colorado

Saturday, July 5
New England at Real Salt Lake
Portland at Los Angeles

Sunday, July 6
D.C. United at Toronto FC
Seattle FC at Vancouver
Montreal at Chicago

Sunday, July 6
Chicago at Sporting Kansas City

Impact 3, Dynamo 0

Houston
Montreal 0, 0-0
First half - 1, Montreal, McInerney (Miller), 41st minute.

Seattle
Seattle 1, Portland 0, McInerney (M. Spill), 75th, 3, Montreal, D. Vaio 2, 79th.

Goals: Houston, Tally Hall; Montreal, Tony Perkins.

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Goals: FC Dallas, Chris Seitz; Columbus, Steve Clark.

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Saturday's games
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Boston at Washington

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SPORTS BRIEFS/WIMBLEDON



MICHAEL PEREZ/AP

Brooklyn Nets head coach Jason Kidd watches the action against the Philadelphia 76ers in an April 5 game in Philadelphia. According to a source, Kidd will leave the Nets to take over head coaching duties of the Milwaukee Bucks and to have more front-office decision-making power with the franchise.

Briefly

Source: Nets agree to let Kidd leave to coach Bucks

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Milwaukee Bucks and Brooklyn Nets have agreed to a deal allowing Jason Kidd to become Milwaukee's coach, a person with knowledge of the details said Monday.

The Nets will receive a second-round draft pick in 2015 that was formerly their own and another in 2019 belonging to either Milwaukee or Sacramento.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the deal has not been announced.

Kidd went 44-38 in his only season as Nets coach, but then sought control of the basketball operations department and was denied. The Nets gave him permission to talk to other teams about a job.

Milwaukee still has coach Larry Drew under contract.

It was a stunningly quick ending to what had been Kidd's celebrated return to the franchise as a player. The Nets hired him last June as coach just weeks after he retired as a player and retired his No. 5 before a preseason game in October. Also, he bought a small portion of the team.

Rose wins Quicken Loans National playoff

BETHESDA, Md. — Justin Rose got his mistake out of the way early and won the Quicken Loans National in a playoff Sunday over Shawn Stefani.

Tied for the lead on the 18th hole, Rose tried to hit through the trees and put it into the water. He atoned for the mistake by making a 15-foot bogey putt and got into a sudden-death playoff when Stefani made bogey on the 17th hole. Both finished at 4-under 280.

It was Rose's first win since the U.S. Open last summer at Merion. Congressional made it feel like he won another U.S. Open.

In other golf news:

■ **LPGA Tour:** Stacy Lewis made a 7-foot birdie putt on the final hole of the Northwest Arkansas Championship in Rogers, Ark., to finally win an official event in her adopted state.

■ **Champions Tour:** Bernhard Langer made a short birdie putt on the second hole of a playoff with Jeff Sluman to win the Senior Players Championship in Pittsburgh.

Reports: Pistorius not mentally ill during killing

PRETORIA, South Africa — A panel of mental health experts has concluded that Oscar Pistorius was not suffering from a mental illness when he killed girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp in his home last year, the chief prosecutor at the athlete's murder trial said Monday.

Pistorius' trial resumed after a break of one month during which a psychologist and three psychiatrists also assessed whether the double-amputee runner was capable of understanding the wrongfulness of his act when he shot Steenkamp through a closed toilet door.

Pagnano wins 2nd race of Indy doubleheader

HOUSTON — Sam Schmidt's drivers went 1-2 on Sunday for the first time in team history as Simon Pagnano grabbed the win and led rookie teammate Mikhail Alešnin to the checkered flag at the Grand Prix of Houston.

Alešnin, the first Russian to compete in IndyCar, was a career-

best second for his first podium and said a tire problem nearly prevented him from making it to the finish.

Third went to rookie Jack Hawksworth, his first career podium. It capped a breakthrough weekend for the British driver, who finished a career-best sixth Saturday.

Impact earn shut out over Dynamo in MLS

MONTREAL — Jack McInerney scored two goals and Marco Di Vaio added another to help the Montreal Impact beat the Houston Dynamo 3-0 on Sunday. The Dynamo (5-10-2) have lost five games in a row, and haven't scored in a league game since May 17 — a club-record span of 479 minutes.

In other MLS news:

■ Host Columbus and FC Dallas paused before their scoreless draw to support the recovery of a firefighter who was struck by lightning in the parking lot of Crew Stadium.

Ducks get C Thompson from Lightning for picks

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Anaheim Ducks acquired center Nate Thompson from Tampa Bay on Sunday night in a trade for two draft picks. The Ducks sent a fourth- and seventh-round picks in 2015 to the Lightning.

In other NHL news:

■ The Arizona Coyotes acquired center Sam Gagner from Tampa Bay, about 90 minutes after the Lightning picked him up in a trade with Edmonton Oilers for Teddy Purcell.

■ The Buffalo Sabres bought out defenseman Christian Ehrhoff's contract, making him an unrestricted free agent.

Bouchard leads way into quarterfinals

By STEPHEN WILSON
The Associated Press

LONDON — Eugenie Bouchard is making another deep run at a Grand Slam after reaching the Wimbledon quarterfinals by beating the player who upset Serena Williams.

The 13th-seeded Canadian was down 5-3 in the second set but won the last four games to defeat France's Alize Cornet 7-6 (5), 7-5 in Monday's opening match on Centre Court.

Bouchard's victory set up a potential quarterfinal duel with Maria Sharapova, the former Wimbledon champion who beat her in the semifinals en route to the French Open title last month.

"This is what I've worked so hard for, to be in the quarters at Wimbledon," Bouchard said. "But I want to go another step. I want to keep going."

Bouchard, the only woman to reach the semifinals this year at both the Australian Open and French Open, became the first Canadian to reach the quarterfinals at Wimbledon since the Open era began in 1968.

"Another little historic thing for Canada," she said. "That's cool. I hope I can go further."

While Canada is making a breakthrough, with Milos Raonic playing in the men's fourth round Tuesday, American tennis was left with no player — man or woman — in the draw after John Isner lost and Madison Keys pulled out with an injury.

It's the first time since 1911 that no American men or women have reached the round of 16 at Wimbledon.

"Didn't know that," Isner said after losing a third-round match to Feliciano Lopez in four sets.

"Don't really care either," the defending champion. Andy Murray moved into the quarterfinals for the seventh year in a row, beating 20th-seeded Kevin Anderson of South Africa 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (6).

The match finished with the Centre Court roof shut after a brief rain delay early in the second set.

The third-seeded Murray has won all 12 sets he's played in the tournament this year, dropping 32 games. His All England Club winning streak is 17 matches, including the run to a gold medal at the 2012 London Olympics.

Most of the Bouchard-Cornet match was played under the Centre Court roof after rain stopped play with the Frenchwoman up 3-2 in the first set.

"Finally, I got to play under the very famous roof," Bouchard said. "Happy for that experience."

Cornet was coming off a three-set win over the top-seeded and five-time champion Williams in the third round on Saturday, but couldn't hold off the aggressive Bouchard.

The first man to reach the quarterfinals was 26th-seeded Martin Cilic of Croatia, who followed up his third-round win

over 2010 finalist Tomas Berdych by beating Jeremy Chardy 7-6 (8) 6-4, 6-4. Cilic will next play either top-seeded Novak Djokovic or Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

The ninth-seeded Isner hit 52 aces but fell to 19th-seeded Lopez 6-7 (8), 7-6 (6), 7-6 (3), 7-5. Lopez earned the only service break of the match in the next-to-last game with a cross-court backhand passing winner. It was the only time Isner was broken during his three matches this year at the All England Club.

A three-time quarterfinalist at Wimbledon, Lopez will play Australian Open champion Stan Wawrinka next.

No. 5 Wawrinka beat Denis Istomin of Uzbekistan, 6-3, 6-3, 6-4 in a third-round match. Also reaching the fourth round was No. 10 Kei Nishikori, who downed Simone Bolelli of Italy, 3-6, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-4 in a match that had been suspended at 3-3 in the fifth set Saturday.

The 19-year-old Keys withdrew from her completed third-round match against Yaroslava Shvedova because of a strained left thigh. The match had been suspended by darkness on Saturday, with Kazakhstan player leading 7-6 (7), 6-6.

"I came in this morning and I had lots of tape on and I tried," the 30th-ranked Keys said. "I had so much tape on me I could barely walk. It just wasn't happening."

Among the women reaching the quarterfinals were three Czech players — 2011 champion Petra Kvitová, Lucie Safarova and unseeded Barbora Záhlová. Last year's Wimbledon runner-up, the 19th-seeded Sabine Lisicki of Germany, reached the fourth round by beating 2008 French Open champion Ana Ivanovic 6-4, 3-6, 6-1.

Scoreboard

Monday
At The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club
London
Purse: \$42.5 million (Grand Slam)
Surface: Grass-Outdoor

Men
Third Round
Stan Wawrinka (5, Switzerland, def. Denis Istomin, Uzbekistan, 6-3, 6-3, 6-4).
Kei Nishikori (10, Japan, def. Simone Bolelli, Italy, 3-6, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-4).
Novak Djokovic (1, Serbia, def. John Isner (9), United States, 6-7 (8), 6-6, 7-6 (3), 7-5).

Fourth Round
Marin Cilic (26, Croatia, def. Jeremy Chardy, France, 7-6 (8), 6-4, 6-4).
Andy Murray (3, Britain, def. (20) Kevin Anderson, South Africa, 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (6).

Women
Shvedova
Yaroslava Shvedova, Kazakhstan, def. Madison Keys, United States, 7-6 (7), 6-4, retired.
Sabine Lisicki (19, Germany, def. Ana Ivanovic (1), Serbia, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1).

Fourth Round
Lucie Safarova (23, Czech Republic, def. Tereza Smitkova, Czech Republic, 6-0, 6-2).
Barbora Záhlová, Czechia, Czech Republic, def. Caroline Wozniacki (16), Denmark, 6-2, 7-5).
Eugenie Bouchard (13, Canada, def. Alize Cornet (28), France, 7-6 (5), 7-5).
Petra Kvitová (6, Czech Republic, def. Peng Shuai, China, 6-3, 6-2).

MLB



CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

The Pirates' Pedro Alvarez, right, high-fives teammates (from left) Travis Snider, Josh Harrison and Andrew McCutchen after hitting a three-run home run off Rays pitcher Alex Cobb in a June 23 game in St. Petersburg, Fla. After a slow start, the Pirates have the majors' best record since May 2.

This Week in Baseball

Pirates righting the ship

Patience helping Pittsburgh rebound from its slow start

By FRED GOODALL
The Associated Press

A slow start didn't rattle the Pittsburgh Pirates, who never stopped believing in themselves or the way they're built to win.

Manager Clint Hurdle's team has quietly compiled the NL's best record since May 2, rebounding from a poor opening month of the season to climb back over .500 for the first time since mid-April.

And with Andrew McCutchen, last year's league MVP, continuing to perform at an All-Star level, Neil Walker back in the lineup after recovering from an appendectomy, and Gerrit Cole rejoining the pitching rotation following a stint on the disabled list due to right shoulder fatigue, there's reason to believe the Pirates can contend for a playoff spot again.

Hurdle resisted any temptation there may have been to make major adjustments when things didn't go well early and the Pirates found themselves languishing near the bottom of the NL Central standings.

"We've been steadfast. There is an inclination in life and sports, in relationships, and when something goes wrong you change right away. When you continue to change right away and be re-active to everything that happens right away, what you get back at is change," Hurdle said.

"We believe in what we believe in. We believe there's a certain way we need to play the game.

Things we need to get done on the mound. Things we need to get done on defense. The way we need to approach our at-bats," Hurdle added. "We've been mindful of that. We've worked hard every day to get a little bit better. And I think over the course of time, that has happened."

The Pirates (42-40) remain in fourth place, but will enter July feeling a lot better about themselves after going 17-10 in June.

They're 32-22 since falling eight games under .500 on May 1, with McCutchen ranking among the NL leaders in hits, RBIs, extra-base hits, total bases, slugging percentage and batting average during the month of June.

He's had help, too, including when Hurdle has gone with Gregory Polanco, Starling Marte and McCutchen in the top three spots in the batting order. The three have batted a combined .343 (46 of 134) with six doubles, two homers, 22 RBIs and 24 runs scored in the 10 games they've been the 1-3 hitters.

"It's been really fun to watch," Hurdle said.

Five things to follow in baseball this week:

1 Amazing Kershaw: What a month of June for Los Angeles Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw, who went 6-0 with an 0.82 ERA, 61 strikeouts and the first no-hitter of his career in June. He also will carry a career-best streak of 28 consecutive innings into his first start of July.

2 Fading fast: As hot as Kershaw's been lately, Toronto's Mark Buehrle has been just the opposite. The left-hander won 10 of his first 11 decisions, however Sunday's loss to his old team, the White Sox, was his fourth straight over five starts he's made since he last won, June 1 vs. Kansas City.

3 Gehrig tribute: Major League Baseball will honor Lou Gehrig on Friday, the 75th anniversary of the Hall of Famer's emotional "luckiest man" farewell speech. A video featuring a first baseman from each team reciting a line from the speech Gehrig made at Yankee Stadium on July 4, 1939, will air at each ballpark. Gehrig was suffering from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis when he made speech. He died two years later from ALS at age 37.

4 Up next: San Francisco's Tim Lincecum makes his first start since pitching the second no-hitter of his career, facing St. Louis at home on Tuesday. Lincecum is 5-1 with a 2.89 ERA in seven career starts against the Cardinals.

5 Stat of the week: Tampa Bay pitchers have set a club-record for strikeouts in a month with 278 in June, pulling within nine of the major league mark of 286, set by the Cubs in August 2002. The AL record is 280 by the Tigers and Indians in May 2013. The Rays closed the month Monday against the Yankees.

By GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — After Clayton Kershaw completed a spectacular month on the mound with yet another dominant victory, he struggled to muster much excitement about his performance or even the Los Angeles Dodgers' leap to the top of the standings.

Kershaw knows it's only June. But what a month it's been for the Dodgers and their incredible left-hander.

Kershaw struck out 13 during seven innings of five-hit ball, and Andre Ethier hit a three-run homer in the Dodgers' 6-0 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals on Sunday.

Kershaw (9-2) extended his career-best scoreless streak to 28 innings in his first home start since throwing his first no-hitter June 18 against Colorado. He went 6-0 with an 0.82 ERA in June, yielding four runs in 44 innings and striking out 61.

"More importantly, we've just won every game," Kershaw said. "We're on a good run. In a long season, we'll go on a bunch of runs. We've just got to make sure the lowest points aren't as low."

The Dodgers have had nothing but high points lately: With 12 wins in 16 games, Los Angeles (47-37) has pulled virtually even with the slumping Giants (46-36) atop the NL West. The Dodgers were 9½ games behind San Francisco on June 8, but erased the entire deficit in three weeks.

"When we were struggling early, I think everyone knew in the back of their minds that we could turn it around," Kershaw said. "Coming back and tying up the Giants in a month is not something we expected, just like we didn't expect to go 42-8 last year, but we have that ability."

Kershaw's bid for back-to-back home no-hitters lasted exactly two pitches before Matt Carpenter lined a single to left. Although he walked two and retired the side in order just once, Kershaw never allowed a runner to reach

third base while getting at least one strikeout in each inning.

Kershaw still finished strong by striking pinch-hitter Jon Jay and Carpenter to end the seventh, earning a loud standing ovation from the Dodger Stadium crowd.

He's been the best pitcher in the world (lately)," said Matt Kemp, who drove in the Dodgers' first run. "You get a day off from your legs sometimes when he's pitching, because you don't have to run too much (in the field)."

The Dodgers took three of four from St. Louis in a rematch of last season's NL championship series. Ethier capped Los Angeles' four-run fifth inning with a shot to right off Shelby Miller (7-7) for his first homer since May 27.

Carpenter had three hits for the Cardinals, who were shut out twice in the four-game series.

"We had a couple of guys on with leadoff hits, and the next thing you know, they're still standing on the bag they started on," St. Louis manager Mike Matheny said. "A couple of times we had guys in scoring position, but (Kershaw) just wasn't giving us much. He's locked in."

Indeed, St. Louis had little chance on another vintage day for Kershaw, who hasn't allowed a run since June 13. His 28-inning scoreless streak is the fifth-longest in franchise history, trailing only a who's-who of Dodgers luminaries: Orel Hershisser, Don Drysdale, Don Sutton and Sandy Koufax. Kershaw has the longest streak since Hershisser's record 59-inning run in 1968.

Adrian Gonzalez got the Dodgers' first hit in the fourth inning by bunting into the wide-open space near third base created by the Cardinals' severe defensive shift. After Kemp drove in Yasiel Puig, Gonzalez scored on Juan Uribe's sacrifice fly.

Puig hustled for a two-out double in the fifth, and Gonzalez drove him in. After Kemp doubled, Ethier connected for just his fourth homer of the season, setting off a dance party in the Dodgers' dugout when he returned.



ALEX GALLARDO/AP

Los Angeles pitcher Clayton Kershaw extended his career-best scoreless streak to 28 innings and struck out 13 to lead the Dodgers over the St. Louis Cardinals 6-0 on Sunday in Los Angeles.

MLB



KATHY WILLEMS/AP

Yankees catcher Brian McCann, left, watches Red Sox designated hitter David Ortiz follow through on a three-run home run off New York Yankees pitcher Chase Whitley in the third inning on Sunday in New York. The homer was the 450th of Ortiz's career and helped Boston beat New York 8-5.

AL roundup

Ortiz hits 450th home run as Red Sox defeat Yankees

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Playing in prime time on national television against an AL East rival, the big names in the middle of Boston's lineup delivered.

David Ortiz hit his 450th homer, a colossal three-run drive, and Dustin Pedroia had three RBIs during his second consecutive three-hit game to lead the Red Sox over the New York Yankees 8-5 Sunday night.

"To get to where we want to be, those guys are going to have to drive the bus," winning pitcher John Lackey said. "You need the parts to do well, too, but they're kind of the engine that runs this thing."

Lackey (9-5) labored through five innings before four Red Sox relievers pitched shutout ball the rest of the way. Held to two runs in the first two games of the series, Boston took two of three anyway to finish a 4-6 road trip and improve to 6-13 away from home this month.

"Anytime you win a series on the road, particularly against a team that's ahead of us, these are key," manager John Farrell said.

Mark Teixeira and Carlos Beltran homered for the Yankees, who have dropped six of eight.

Rookie right-hander Chase Whitley (3-2) struggled for the second straight start, allowing five runs and eight hits in four-plus innings, as six New York pitchers combined for eight walks.

"You're behind in the count, you're walking people and giving them extra baserunners, it usually leads to damage," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said.

Koji Uehara worked a perfect ninth for his 18th save in 19 attempts.

Pedroia made a diving play at second base to limit a Yankees rally, and center fielder Jackie Bradley Jr. threw out Beltran at the plate to keep the score 8-5 in the sixth. It was Bradley's ninth assist of the season.

Pedroia bounced a hit-and-run single through the right side in the third, and Ortiz was booed by the sellout crowd of 48,124 as he stepped to the plate. The slugger answered with a long drive well into the raised bleachers in right-center to make it 4-0.

Ortiz tossed his bat aside and took his time on a wide trot around the bases, saluting his family in the stands as he approached third base. The home run put Big Papi in sole possession of 37th place on the career list, two behind Adam Dunn and Red Sox Hall of Famer Carl Yastrzemski.

"Pretty cool," Ortiz said. Touted prospect Mookie Betts made his major league debut for Boston in right field. With his parents and fiancée in the stands, the 21-year-old Betts grounded into a double play his first time up but singled in the fourth for his first hit.

Jeter tossed the souvenir ball to

a Red Sox bat boy, and Betts was promptly caught stealing.

"It was great," Betts said, acknowledging he felt some jitters during his first at-bat. "I'm not one to put any extra pressure on myself."

Royals 5, Angels 4: Omar Infante delivered another big hit against Los Angeles, singling home the winning run for host Kansas City with one out in the ninth inning.

Mariners 3, Indians 0: Felix Hernandez allowed one hit over eight innings while striking out nine for host Seattle and Robinson Cano backed him with a two-run homer in a win over Cleveland.

White Sox 4, Blue Jays 0: Moises Sierra hit a solo home run and Jose Quintana won back-to-back starts for the first time this season as visiting Chicago beat Toronto for its third straight victory.

Twins 3, Rangers 2: Kendrys Morales had a tiebreaking double off closer Joakim Soria in the ninth inning as Minnesota ended its 10-game road losing streak by beating Texas.

Rays 12, Orioles 7: Matt Joyce homered twice, had a career-high five hits and drove in four runs to power visiting Tampa Bay.

Astros 6, Tigers 4: Scott Feldman threw six strong innings and Jose Altuve had three hits and two steals as host Houston held on to beat Detroit.

NL roundup

Braves earn rare sweep over Phils

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The Braves followed a familiar pattern — using timely hitting and stingy pitching — to complete a four-game sweep of Philadelphia. B.J. Upton tripled and drove in two runs Sunday to lead streaking Atlanta to a 3-2 victory over the Phillies and their first four-game sweep in Philadelphia in 50 years.

Gerald Laird had two hits with a double and RBI for the Braves, who won for the sixth time in seven games while ending their road trip 8-3. Atlanta avenged a three-game sweep by Philadelphia June 16-18 at Turner Field.

"We had timely hitting and the pitching was really good," Braves manager Fredi Gonzalez said. "You can't ask for more than that."

It was the Braves' first four-game sweep in Philadelphia since Sept. 24-27, 1964, when the franchise was in Milwaukee and their four wins at Connie Mack Stadium contributed to the Phillies' infamous season-ending collapse that year.

Marlon Byrd hit a pair of solo home runs for the slumping Phillies, who have lost eight of 10 to drop to 10 games under .500.

"It didn't go our way," Phillies slugger Ryan Howard said. "The ball didn't bounce our way. It just wasn't meant to be for us in this series."

Chase Utley singled in the seventh inning for his 1,500th career hit. Braves first baseman Freddie Freeman greeted Utley with applause and a pat on the back, and the crowd of 33,215 gave the Phillies' second baseman a standing ovation.

There wasn't much else for the home fans to cheer.

Philadelphia dropped to 18-27 at Citizens Bank Park and fell to 7-35 when scoring three runs or less as the offense continued to struggle. The Phillies were 0-for-7 with runners in scoring position, finishing the series 3-for-32.

"Hitting in the clutch and hitting with men on base is a com-

ponent we have to get better at," Phillies manager Ryne Sandberg said. "We came up short in this series. It could've been a big point for us."

Aaron Harang (7-6) got the victory despite allowing 11 hits in seven innings. He gave up two runs, struck out four and walked two.

"Harang battled through some tough innings, gave us a great effort," Gonzalez said. "He's a wily vet."

Craig Kimbrel pitched a scoreless ninth, but had to work out of a jam for his 24th save in 28 opportunities. Kimbrel got the first two batters out before consecutive singles by Ben Revere and Jimmy Rollins put runners on first and third for Utley. But Utley flew out to right to end the game.

David Buchanan (4-4), making his eighth start in place of injured left-hander Cliff Lee, allowed three runs on five hits and five walks in five innings to snap his three-game winning streak.

Reds 4, Giants 0: Homer Bailey made a strong bid for another no-hitter for Cincinnati, shutting down host San Francisco until Buster Posey's two-out single in the seventh inning.

Padres 2, Diamondbacks 1: Rookie Odrisamer Despaigne won his second straight start and Cameron Maybin keyed a rare offensive outburst as host San Diego popped out of its one-day stay in last place in the NL West.

Pirates 5, Mets 2: Pedro Alvarez homered and drove in three runs and Edinson Volquez pitched six shutout innings to propel host Pittsburgh over New York.

Rockies 10, Brewers 4: Colorado scored three runs in a wild fifth-inning that featured two Milwaukee errors, avoiding a season sweep by host Milwaukee.

Interleague

Athletics 4, Marlins 3: Nate Freiman hit a three-run homer in his 2014 debut as Oakland completed a three-game series sweep of host Miami.



TOM MIHALEX/AP

The Braves' Aaron Harang, right, is greeted by teammates after he and Tommy La Stella both scored on a triple by B.J. Upton in the second inning of Sunday's 3-2 win over the Phillies in Philadelphia.

WORLD CUP

Tiny Costa Rica hangs on to oust Greece

By GERALD IMRAY
The Associated Press

RECIFE, Brazil — With his team down to 10 men for nearly an hour, Keylor Navas made sure Costa Rica's last line of defense held firm.

The goalkeeper came through with a string of stops in regulation and extra time and then made the only save in a penalty shootout to send Costa Rica through to the World Cup quarterfinals on Sunday with a win over Greece.

After Navas dived to his right to push out the effort by Theofanis Gekas, Costa Rica defender Michael Umana scored the decisive spot kick for a 5-3 win in the shootout, sending the team sprinting down the pitch to embrace its goalkeeper.

The game had finished 1-1 following extra time, after Greece equalized in second-half injury time.

"It was only a dream for us, a dream that became a reality," Navas said. "A dream that was dreamt by an entire country."

Costa Rica advances to play the Netherlands, one of the tournament favorites, in the quarterfinals on Saturday in Salvador in a surprising appearance in the last eight for the small country. Costa Rica has a quarter of the population of Brazil's biggest city and hardly anyone picked the country to even make it past the group stage.

To the entire people in Costa Rica, those at home and out on the streets, this is for you," said Costa Rica's coach, Jorge Luis Pinto, who is Colombian. "This is a people that love football and they deserve it. ... We will continue fighting. We will go on. We see beautiful things."

The victory also delighted the majority of the just over 41,000



PETER DAVID JOSEK/AP

Costa Rica players react after Michael Umana's goal in the shootout moved Costa Rica into the World Cup quarterfinals with a win over Greece in a Round of 16 match on Sunday at the Arena Pernambuco in Recife, Brazil. Costa Rica won 5-3 in penalty shootouts after a 1-1 tie.

fans in Recife as the Brazilian locals shouted for Costa Rica throughout the game and often broke out into chants of "Ole, Ole, Ole, Ole, Ticos!" — using the common nickname for Costa Ricans.

Greece was often booed. Costa Rica went ahead in the 52nd minute with a coolly taken goal by captain Bryan Ruiz, but the game changed when Oscar Duarte clumsily lunged at Greece's Jose Holebas in the 66th and was sent off with a second yellow card.

Pouring forward, the Greeks did beat Navas in injury time when defender Sokratis Papastathopoulos smashed in a rebound to make the team's numerical advantage

Scoreboard

Round of 16
Saturday, June 28
Brazil 1, Chile 1, Brazil advanced 3-2 on penalty kicks
Colombia 2, Uruguay 0
Sunday, June 29
Netherlands 2, Mexico 1
Costa Rica 1, Greece 1, Costa Rica advanced 5-3 on penalty kicks
Monday, June 30
France vs. Nigeria
Germany vs. Algeria
Tuesday, July 1
Argentina vs. Switzerland

At Salvador, Brazil
Belgium vs. United States

Quarterfinals

Friday, July 4
At Fortaleza, Brazil
Brazil vs. Colombia
At Rio de Janeiro
France/Nigeria vs. Germany/Algeria
Saturday, July 5
At Salvador, Brazil
Netherlands vs. Costa Rica
At Brasilia, Brazil
Argentina/Switzerland vs. Belgium/United States

eventually pay.

Yet Navas kept denying the Greeks through extra time and then, crucially, when he dived,

threw up a hand and pushed Gekas' spot-kick away at the end.

"Obviously he has to be con-

gratulated," Greece coach Fernando Santos said of Costa Rica's "keeper." "If it weren't for (him), the results would have been different."

Santos was sent to the stands by Australian referee Ben Williams just before the penalties and said he watched the shootout on a television inside the stadium.

"Sadness," he said of Greece's elimination and his last game in charge of the team. "Definitely sadness. Not much (else) goes through your mind at that time."

The red card for Duarte changed the game — which Costa Rica had slowly begun to control — and Greece surged forward for most of the remainder of the match.

But, with the exception of Papastathopoulos' goal, they just couldn't get past Navas as shot after shot was blocked. Greece had 13 shots on target to Costa Rica's two.

Navas smothered a volley from Dimitris Salpingidis from point-blank range in the first half. After the equalizer, he threw himself high to tip over a header from substitute Konstantinos Mitroglou that would have surely been the winner in the dying seconds of regulation time.

He then made three crucial stops in extra time, when Costas Katsouranis, Lazaros Christodenisopoulos and Mitroglou were all denied.

During the shootout, the Costa Rican squad knelt in a line. They then burst onto their feet to race over to Navas and smother him in a huddle when Umana's spot hit the net and Costa Rica made the last eight at the World Cup.

"We will not stay on the quarterfinals," coach Pinto said. "Rest assured that we will not get eliminated there."

Argentina needs scorers not named Messi against Swiss

By FRANK GRIFFITHS
The Associated Press

BELO HORIZONTE, Brazil — Having relied on Lionel Messi for most of its goals so far at this World Cup, Argentina is planning to find new ways of scoring in its second-round match against Switzerland on Tuesday.

Messi carried Switzerland through the group stage, scoring four of its goals. The other two came from an own goal and left back Marcos Rojo.

With Sergio Aguero missing Tuesday's match because of a left thigh injury, the Group F winners are looking to Ezequiel Lavezzi to step in — a challenge that assistant coach Claudio Gignali said the Paris Saint-Germain forward is ready for.

"He's a very powerful player and is in a great moment," Gignali said. "He finished his club season very well. He has been asking to be on the pitch since he came (to Brazil). I don't have any doubts that he will know how to take ad-



Argentina vs. Switzerland
AFN-Sports
5:30 p.m. Tuesday CET
12:30 a.m. Wednesday JKT

vantage of his opportunities."

Lavezzi usually attacks down the wings, "and also drops back to work in partnership with Argentina's midfielders. The team will have to adapt its tactical formation a bit if Lavezzi starts.

Argentina is also wary of Switzerland's attack and will have to shore up its shaky defense to deal with threats that include winger Xherdan Shaqiri, who scored a hat trick against Honduras in the final Group E match.

"Switzerland works very well



VECTOR R. CAVANO/AP

Argentina's Ezequiel Lavezzi, right, jogs with teammates Lionel Messi, left, and Fernando Gago, center, during a training session in Vespesiano, near Belo Horizonte, Brazil on Saturday.

on the flanks and attacks down the wings," Gignali said. "It's going to be a very intense match."

Switzerland also beat Ecuador in the group stage, but was over-

run by France in a 5-2 defeat. For Switzerland coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, the team's qualification for the second round meant postponing his possible retirement.

The German veteran, a two-time Champions League winner as a coach, has said this tournament will be his last.

Goalkeeper Diego Benaglio knows that beating Argentina will demand complete concentration by his teammates.

"We must remain highly focused, very disciplined, maintain our compactness, act extremely carefully," Benaglio said. "The defensive work doesn't begin with the defenders. Our attacker will be the first defender."

Argentina is not taking anything for granted and won't expect to roll over Switzerland in a score Paulo.

"Everybody said we would score loads of goals in the group stage and it's clear that didn't happen," midfielder Maxi Rodriguez said. "Our mentality is always the same: at a World Cup you have to be focused 100 percent of the time. It's true that big teams are still left on the way, but if you're not concentrated any team can beat you."

WORLD CUP



WONG MAY-E (top), MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Top, the Netherlands' Arjen Robben goes down in the box after a challenge by Mexico's Rafael Marquez to draw a penalty during added time of the World Cup match in Fortaleza, Brazil on Sunday. Above, referee Pedro Proenca shows Marquez a yellow card while Mexico's goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa, right, looks on. Klaas Jan Huntelaar converted the kick late in stoppage time to give the Dutch the victory.

Keeper Ochoa the standout for valiant Mexicans

By DEREK GATOPoulos
The Associated Press

FORTALEZA, Brazil — He'd stopped two of the world's most famous forwards, and on Sunday, Brazilians and Mexicans alike chanted his name.

Guillermo Ochoa was one of the main reasons why Mexico was on the brink of reaching the quarterfinals at the World Cup — before the Netherlands came from a goal down to win 2-1 with two late goals.

Voted man of the match, he was inconsolable.

"It isn't easy to go out this way, the way this match went," said a keeper who had denied Brazil star Neymar and Dutch forward Arjen Robben at the World Cup. "It's just very hard to deal with when victory escapes you this way."

However, the 28-year-old keeper, who plays for French second division team Ajaccio, now looks likely to attract the attention of Europe's bigger clubs. He almost single handedly held Brazil to a 0-0 draw in the group stage and then kept the Dutch at bay until the final minutes in the second round on Sunday.

He twice prevented what looked like certain goals, getting between Stefan de Vrij and the ball in the 57th minute and then dropping down to stop Robben nine minutes later.

Eventually, Ochoa was beaten by Wesley Sneijder in the



THEMBA HADEBE/AP

Mexico's goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa makes a save on a shot by Netherlands' Klaas-Jan Huntelaar on Sunday.

88th minute, with almost no time to react to his powerful low volley that traveled through a crowded penalty area.

Dutch escape with late goals

Robben draws penalty that leads to winner

By MIKE CORDER
The Associated Press

FORTALEZA, Brazil — The Dutch were worried about the oppressive heat at Arena Castelao, and they left it with the stifling hot conditions, and a late penalty call, to thank for a spot in the World Cup quarterfinals.

An inspired tactical change during the second of two official stoppages led to a late goal from Netherlands forward Wesley Sneijder and an injury-time penalty from Klaas Jan Huntelaar in a dramatic 2-1 victory over Mexico on Sunday.

"I moved to 'Plan B' at the cooling break," Netherlands coach Louis van Gaal said.

Despite scoring 10 goals in three group matches, the Dutch again started the match with a defensive 5-3-2 system. Van Gaal made the switch to a more attacking 4-3-3 formation in the second half and tweaked it further when referee Pedro Proenca stopped the match in the 76th minute to allow players to rehydrate.

That helped turn the match around and extend Mexico's second-round course to six straight World Cups.

"Unbelievable," said Arjen Robben, the Netherlands forward that earned the penalty in added time. "Five minutes from full time, we were out."

The Dutch face Costa Rica in the quarterfinals on Saturday.

Robben did little to defuse the debate about his reputation for diving.

The Netherlands winger earned the injury-time penalty and then watched as Huntelaar converted.

Robben collapsed theatrically under a challenge from Rafael Marquez, causing emotional Mexico coach Miguel Herrera, one of the most popular characters at the World Cup because of his emotive ways on the sidelines, to blame his team's loss on referee Pedro Proenca.

"We ended up losing because he whistled a penalty that did not exist," he said, adding that Robben "dived three times. The referee should have cautioned him."

"Today it was the man with the whistle who eliminated us from the World Cup," Herrera said. "If a referee invents a penalty, you're out of the World Cup."

"I hope they have a look at what happened and that this gentleman goes home just like we are."

Marquez said Robben admitted that it was a bad call, but added that the Dutchman thought he should have been awarded a spot kick for an earlier challenge.

"I spoke with him after the match and he told me that it was not a penalty," Marquez said. "He said that the first foul was a penalty and that one was not called."

Mexico has now advanced to the second round at the World Cup six straight times and not reached the quarterfinals. The last time the team made it that far was as host of the 1986 tournament.

Giovani Dos Santos gave the Mexicans the lead in the 48th minute after a goalless first half, but Sneijder equalized with a hard shot in the 88th.

It was the first time Sneijder, who scored five goals at the last World Cup in South Africa, has found the net in Brazil.

And he was given no chance by Klaas Jan Huntelaar's coolly-taken penalty in injury time that secured victory for the Netherlands.

But he'll be remembered for what he saved.

Against Brazil, he twice stopped star striker Neymar, diving at full stretch to push his header past the post and later blocking his goal-bound shot.

Neymar almost got his revenge before the game ended, sending in a free kick to Brazil captain Thiago Silva, whose close-range header was somehow stopped by the curly-haired Mexican keeper.

In the opener against Cameroon, the Mexicans won 1-0, but only held on to their victory after an impressive save from Ochoa stopped a late chance from Benjamin Moukandjo.

Mexico had already sealed its place in the last 16 and was leading 3-0 against Croatia before Ivan Perisic beat Ochoa for a late consolation goal.

Ochoa's standout performances both came in Fortaleza, against Brazil and the Netherlands.

After Sunday's game, Netherlands coach Louis van Gaal's single note of praise for his opponents was for their goalkeeper and how his skills prompted him to change tactics.

"His shot at the goal and Ochoa made a fantastic save," the Dutch coach said referring to De Vrij's effort. "After that we moved to Plan B."

WORLD CUP

Belgium hasn't been the sum of its parts

Tough, talented, deep team still trying to put it together

BY RAF CASERT
The Associated Press

MOGI DAS CRUZES, Brazil — If Belgium has a reputation for self-indulgence because of its love of chocolate and beer, it is time to look at its World Cup squad and admire discipline, stamina and determination.

So far, this has been a hard team to appreciate despite its perfect group record ahead of Tuesday's clash with the United States.

Here are five things to know about the Belgium team.

1 Tough defense: Belgium didn't concede a single goal in open play during the group stage. Talk about a hermetic seal. It has Thibaut Courtois, at 22, already one of the top goalkeepers around. He anchored Atletico Madrid to the Spanish league title and also the Champions League final. Playing ahead of him is Vincent Kompany, who led Manchester City to two of the past three Premier League titles. And amazingly at 36, Daniel Van Buyten is still one of the stand-out defenders at the World Cup.

2 'Kampfschwein' coach: If you are looking for fighting spirit, coach Marc Wilmots fits the bill. Such was the toughness of his attitude and the challenges he made as a player with Schalke in the Bundesliga, the working class fan base immediately took a liking to him and called him Kampfschwein — which translates as fighting boar. Now aged 45, that determination survives. As a coach, he goes looking for victories at the World Cup whether they involve beautiful football or not. His team's three one-goal victories have so far proven it to be the right strategy.

3 Eden Hazard: The playmaker has huge expectations to live up to. At 23, he is already among a handful of European players with global appeal. He is now the creative genius at Chelsea and is seeking to emulate that for Belgium at the World Cup. So far, the results have been mixed. He has been decisive in both matches he played in, providing the winning assist late in the game each time, in a 1-0 win over Russia and a 2-1 victory against Algeria. But he has yet to take the mantle of leadership in the team and this is what Wilmots will be looking for against the United States.

4 Spoil for strikers?: Don't be fooled by the measly four goals from three games, Belgium does have its share of good strikers. Christian Benteke was supposed to be the first choice for Wilmots, but the Aston Villa striker ruptured his Achilles tendon in April. No worries. There's also Romelu Lukaku, the Everton forward. Despite a sterling preparation campaign and key goals in qualifying, he has been a bitter disappointment so far in Brazil. Wilmots went looking for an alternative, and found one. Divock Origi, at 19, has been crucial. He scored the winner against Russia and provided the shot which allowed Jan Vertonghen to tap in the winner against South Korea. Now, Origi is a fan favorite to start against the United States.

5 Match revisited: Since Wilmots and his U.S. counterpart Jurgen Klinsmann get on well, the team had planned to play a training match in Sao Paulo just days before the start of their campaigns. The threat of strikes and traffic jams forced Wilmots to reconsider and it was called off at the last moment. Now they meet will meet in Salvador on Tuesday. But this will be anything but a gentle practice match.



MATTHIAS SCHRADER/AP

The United States' Omar Gonzalez goes for a header with Germany's Mesut Ozil during their Group G match in Recife, Brazil, on Thursday.

Gonzalez appreciates advice from Donovan

BY ARON HELLER
The Associated Press

SÃO PAULO — Landon Donovan is still playing a role for the U.S. World Cup team: supporting defender Omar Gonzalez, his Los Angeles Galaxy teammate.

After injuring his left knee during a Major League Soccer game May 3, Gonzalez was supplanted in the U.S. starting lineup by center backs Geoff Cameron and Matt Besler. Gonzalez sat out the Americans' opener against Ghana, made his World Cup debut during second-half injury time against Portugal and replaced Cameron in the starting lineup for Thursday's 1-0 loss to Germany, when he made several outstanding clearances.

Watching from California after being cut from the roster, Donovan supplies tips.

"I send messages back and forth with Landon," Gonzalez said. "He's been great for me, just giving me advice, and it's been great having him there just to talk about things."

A three-time MLS All-Star, the 6-foot-5, 210-pound Gonzalez is one of the league's top defenders and helped the Galaxy win back-to-back titles in 2011 and 2012. He agreed last August to a multiyear contract paying \$1 million in base salary this year and \$1.25 million in total compensation, and a strong showing at the World Cup could lead to the 25-year-old being sold to a European club.

After whiffing on a third-minute clearance, when the ball bounced through his legs, Gonzalez was a defensive force against the Germans, blocking shots and hoofing the ball to safety.

Born in Dallas to Mexican parents and eligible to play for both nations, Gonzalez played for the U.S. at the 2005 Under-17 World Cup. He was seen as a key player for this four-year cycle and made his national team debut during an August 2010 exhibition against Brazil in New Jersey — the Americans' first game after losing to Ghana in the second round of that year's World Cup.

He was voted MLS Defender of the Year in 2009, but his career was sidetracked in January 2012, when he was loaned to Nuremberg of Germany's Bundesliga. In his first training session, he tore his left anterior cruciate ligament in a collision with Timmy Chandler, his American teammate. He returned that July 4, but didn't rejoin the national team until January 2013 after

‘Not playing in the lead-in games and being on the bench in the first two games, you can get down on yourself, but ... I have good people around me.’

Omar Gonzalez
US defender

a two-year absence.

Gonzalez started the U.S. team's first eight games last year in the final round of World Cup qualifying and seemed set to start in the tournament before the latest injury. When the Americans opened training last month in Stanford, Calif., he worked on his own before joining the full training sessions about a week in. He was limited to second-half substitute appearances in the warmup games against Azerbaijan and Nigeria, and he didn't appear at all against Turkey.

Then U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann told Gonzalez he was starting against Germany.

"I just said, 'OK, I'm good to go,' and there wasn't much else to be said," Gonzalez recalled Saturday. "For me, not playing in the lead-in games and being on the bench in the first two games, you can get down on yourself, but the good thing is that I have good people around me."

One of his biggest backers is left back DaMarcus Beasley, the first American to play in four World Cups.

"He's young, he's hungry and he always wants to do more. He wants to better himself every day," Beasley said. "From an older guy looking on a younger guy, you know it's always great to see that the U.S. program is in great hands with guys like that, with that mentality."

Gonzalez said he didn't know whether he would start Tuesday in the Americans' second-round game against Belgium. He's just happy to be healthy and helping the U.S.

"I keep on telling myself: 'Wow, I'm here playing at the World Cup in Brazil,'" he said. "I don't think it is really going to set in until a few weeks after I'm back home and just have time to really sit down and think about this amazing experience."



THANASSIS STAVRAKIS/AP

Belgium's Divock Origi pushes off South Korea's Kim Young-gwon during a Group H match in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Thursday. Origi scored the winner against Russia and took the shot that led to a teammate scoring the winner against South Korea.

WORLD CUP

US aiming to build attack against Belgium

By RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

SAO PAULO — No wonder the United States is having problems scoring at the World Cup: The Americans are hardly attacking.

Coach Jurgen Klinsmann is eager for the U.S. to create more chances in Tuesday's second-round game against Belgium.

The U.S. had just 72 attacks during three group-stage games, according to FIFA. That ranked 31st among the 32 teams, ahead of only Costa Rica's 69.

The Americans were dead last in attacks from the left with 21 and tied for last with Iran with 29 from the center. Right back Fabian Johnson seems to be providing the spark for most forays upfield,

“The first minutes of the game, impose yourself, step on their toes a bit, get in their face.”

Graham Zusi
US midfielder

advancing more often than left back DaMarcus Beasley.

Midfielder Graham Zusi insists the approach and attitude must change if they are to reach the quarterfinals for the first time since 2002.

“The first minutes of the game, impose yourself, step on their toes a bit, get in their face,” he said.

The Americans know they have to surge upfield more often if they hope to reach a quarterfinal against Argentina or Switzerland — a lot more often.

After advancing despite a 1-0 loss to Germany in rainy Recife, they worked out at Sao Paulo Futebol Clube, where the tem-



American Fabian Johnson, left, is challenged by Portugal's Raul Meireles during a Group G match. The U.S. had just 72 attacks during the group stage matches, ranking them 31st out of 32 teams.

perature on Friday peaked at 81 degrees, 12 above normal.

They flew Sunday to Salvador, another beach city on the northeast coast for the match against Belgium. The Red Devils, back in soccer's showcase after a 12-year absence, have won three straight World Cup games for the first time with one-goal victories over Algeria, Russia and South Korea. And their 136 attacks are seventh overall and nearly double the American total.

While Klinsmann wants his team to play attractive, attacking soccer, it hasn't worked out that way. The Americans had scored in eight straight World Cup games before getting shut out Thursday.

“It's definitely something that we learned out of the Germany game. We were too deep — especially the first 20 minutes,” Klinsmann said. “I was screaming my lungs off there to get the back line out and to move the entire unit high up the field. We will

work on that in next couple days in training, to shift our entire game up forward. So that will put more pressure on the opponents and create more chances.”

The U.S. had 41 percent possession in its 2-1 win over Ghana, 48 percent in its 2-2 draw against Portugal and 37 percent versus Germany. The Americans have been outshot 54-27 in the three matches.

And this had occurred in a World Cup in which offense is

up. There were an average of 2.83 goals per game in the group stage, up 35 percent from 2.10 in South Africa four years ago and the highest in the initial phase since 1958's 3.37, according to STATS.

Jozy Altidore, the top American forward, has been sidelined since straining his left hamstring in the first half against Ghana. Klinsmann said “we are optimistic we have him being a part of the Belgium game” but didn't go into detail on Altidore's recovery. Altidore looked strong running laps, then stretched on the sideline under the direction of medical staff.

In the last two games, Klinsmann opted for a 4-2-3-1 formation with five midfielders to feed Clint Dempsey as the lone striker.

Thus far, the U.S. has had just four solo runs into the penalty area, in a four-way tie for 27th, and the formation frequently morphs into a 4-4-1-1.

“We have to bring up the players higher up and create chances get more support for Clint and come down the line more often on the sides,” Klinsmann said. “This is something we will work on in the next few days.”

While midfielder Michael Bradley hasn't been at his sharp, he was the endurance-man of the first round, leading all players with 23.6 miles 38 kilometers covered.

“He is all over the place. The defensive work that Michael puts in is absolutely outstanding,” Klinsmann said. “We know that he can add something extra to it going forward. He also needs to help with the team by shifting higher up. If we can get Michael more into that role behind Clint, I think we are even more dangerous then. So there is more to come.”

AP Sports Writer Janie McCauley contributed to this report.

Knockout: Win would be boost for US Soccer

FROM BACK PAGE

“We want to obviously do well for ourselves, for our country, but it's a big step for the growth of soccer if we get past Belgium,” U.S. defender DaMarcus Beasley said.

Getting past Belgium is no easy task. So far it has conceded only one goal — a penalty at that — in three games. And in Thibaut Courtois, the team has arguably the most exciting young goalkeeper in the world.

While team captain Vincent Kompany has been excellent in the two games he's played, the central defender has been struggling with a recurring groin strain and is a doubt for Tuesday's game.

“We will have to assess it tomorrow, how he moves,” said Belgium coach Marc Wilmots, adding his recovery was on schedule. “I cannot play him if he is 80 percent only.”

Another starter, Thomas Vermaelen, has a hamstring injury and has resumed individual exercises. Whether he can play or

“We want to obviously do well for ourselves, for our country, but it's a big step for the growth of soccer if we get past Belgium.”

DaMarcus Beasley
US defender

not will be another last-minute decision.

Add to that the cracked fibula of right back Anthony Vanden Borre and an abductor strain for Laurent Ciman, and Wilmots could be in trouble.

Belgium has treaded extremely carefully to line up three one-goal victories and emerge from its group with a perfect record. Holding back, avoiding errors and pouncing late has become its mantra, and if fans deplore the lack of joy — too bad.

The satisfaction of beautiful football cannot match the thrill of victory.

“If you ask me whether to produce thrills and leave after the group stage, or win all games 1-0 and win the World Cup, I prefer 1-0. That is clear,” Wilmots said. “I am there to be a realist. I am not there to please the stadium fans.”

And since the U.S. offense has often been anemic, don't bet on much of a goal-fest.

In the last two games, Klinsmann opted for a formation with five midfielders to feed lone striker Clint Dempsey. Jozy Altidore, the top American forward, has been sidelined since straining his left hamstring in the first half against Ghana and has been training on his own.

The U.S. hasn't played Belgium in the World Cup since winning 3-0 in its opening match of the very first tournament in 1930.

“We need to find a way to bottle up their key players,” U.S. goalkeeper Tim Howard said, “but they have so many of them. It will be difficult.”



JULIO CORTES/AP

American Jozy Altidore takes part in a training session on Monday.

SPORTS



Kidd in play

Source: Nets agree to deal with Milwaukee for coach | **Page 24**

Knockout time

Belgium goalkeeper
Thibaut Courtois

ANDREW MEDICHINI/AP

US expects battle against Belgium for spot in quarters

By **RAF CASERT**
The Associated Press

MOGI DAS CRUZES, Brazil — Highly physical, probably defensive and anxiety-ridden for sure.

Not exactly the kind of happy soccer that fans have enjoyed so far at the World Cup, but it's the likely scenario for Tuesday's second-round match between Belgium and the United States.

The stakes certainly are high enough. Belgium has not reached the quarter-finals since 1986 and the U.S. team has already exceeded expectations by emerging from a tough opening group and wants to ride that momentum. "Don't be content," U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann said. "Nobody can claim that he reached his 100 percent yet."

That was after the Americans played three grueling games in the Amazon jungle and Brazil's tropical northeast coast. The U.S. finished ahead of Portu-



Belgium vs. USA

AFN-Sports

9:30 p.m. Tuesday CET

4:30 a.m. Wednesday JKT

gal and Ghana, taking second place in Group G behind Germany.

Tuesday's winner will face either Argentina or Switzerland in Brasilia on Saturday. With support reaching fever pitch back home, American players realize the increased attention that comes with each match is an opportunity not to be missed to promote the sport in the United States.

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Bouchard advances to quarterfinals;
Murray wins in straight sets | **Wimbledon, Page 24**

Ortiz hits 450th HR as Red Sox
beat Yankees **MLB, Page 26**

